NEW ENGLAND FARMER

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

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CALENDAR FOR MARCH.

Spring is but the child
Of churlish Winter, in her froward moods
Discovering much the temper of her sire;
For oft, as if in her the stream of mild
Maternal nature had reversed its course,
She brings her infants forth with many smiles,
But once delivered, kills them with a frown.
COWPER.

MARCH is the first spring month, according to the usual division of time, although one sees very little of that "ethereal mildness," which Thomson so pathetically invokes, until April or even May.

Yet long before the "merry songsters" and "budding flowers" which warble and blossom so deliciously in poetry, make their appearance in point of fact, there are "sweet influences" which make themselves felt by all. Those patches of bare ground which we have not seen before since the snow came and covered everything last November—the "softer airs" which breathe upon us in the intervals of east winds and driving storms—the more jubilant crowing of our rooster, who rejoices to tread "his own native heather" once more, and who holds long conversations on the subject with all his neighbors—yes, even the muddy highway, which affords us neither sleighing nor wheeling—and the overflowing rivers, which in some vicinities suggest a second deluge—all these things tell us of returning life, and we cannot help sympathizing in the general rejuvenation which is taking place in the world. Why! we almost expect to see our own white hair growing brown again, or our wig giving place to a new "native growth."

Now is the time, in this flush of hope, to get all things in order for spring work. See that the farming implements are ready for use—get the seeds together, so that when the frozen ground becomes softened, you may not have that duty to perform—a duty requiring much care and the exercise of a sound judgment.

Make your plans for the whole season's operations with deliberation, and with reference to the whole of your crops. Decide what field shall receive the corn, the oats, wheat, barley, potatoes, roots, &c., so that when the sun has evaporated the rebundant moisture, and the condition of the soil invites you to plow and deposite your seed, you will not be delayed by any doubts as to *where*, and to *what extent*, your various crops are to be placed. This is the *head-work* of the farm, and can better be done by the evening fire, with pencil and paper in hand, than in the hurry and responsibilities of the field. A rude map of your plans, one that any hand can sketch in a few minutes, would greatly aid the memory and facilitate your labor.

There is an old saying, "Time and tide wait for no man." We may procrastinate, if we will, but seed-time will come and go all the same, and if we neglect it, we shall have no harvest.

There is also a *moral* seed-time, which if we fail to improve, will pass by us to return no more—but in this case we shall find not alone *no* harvest, for while the husbandman slumbers, the enemy sows tares!

And yet, while the young cannot be too much impressed with the importance of starting right, we must hazard one suggestion for the benefit of those who have neglected past opportunities,—namely, there are some seeds which it is much better to sow *late*, than *not at all*.

The first spring flower which blossoms, so far as we know, throughout New England, is the May-flower, (*trailing arbutus.*) It is commonly supposed to have received its name merely from the fact of its being found in May, but as it is found still more abundantly in April, we are inclined to receive the tradition that it was so called by the Pilgrim Fathers, in honor of the vessel in which they came over—it being the first flower they discovered in their new home. This, certainly, is the more interesting, and as we think, the more probable theory. We have found its buds late in the fall, thus showing that it makes its preparations for blossoming some months beforehand. We have tried the experiment of placing these buds in a tumbler of water in a sunny window, hoping to produce the novelty of

"A May-flower in December,"

but have never yet succeeded, although they may be hastened in spring by a similar process.

Then there are violets, snow-drops, anemones, —all lifting up their heads in the most out-of-the-way places—many of them "born to blush unseen," and each one the very synonym for purity and modesty. Did it never occur to you, as you have come suddenly upon one of these wild gardens of nature, "Why are so many beautiful things placed where man seldom or ever sees them?" And did not the answer suggest itself, "It must be that GOD loves to see them!" With this thought, the solitary places of the earth are no longer solitary. If we indulge our thoughts a little further, is it not easy to suppose these places filled with the spirits, minds, or intelligences of those made holy, not subject to the conditions of animated matter, and all progressing and rejoicing in the love and wonderful works of our Heavenly Father! All these flowers and trees of of the forest, the springs that run among the hills, the insects that sport in the sunbeams, and the whirlwind that scatters the flocks or strips the hills, are just as much the work of His hands, and the objects of His care, as that far-off Heaven that is so indefinite, and undefinable in the popular mind! The field for reflection in this matter is infinite.

There *are* people in the world—but we hope *you* are not one of them—who look at everything through the medium of "*What is it good for?*" "*What did it cost?*" and perhaps still more to the purpose, "*What will it bring?*" Now it is a good thing to be practical,—but we have little sympathy with those intensely practical people who ignore the refinements of taste, who labor all their lives to feed and clothe the body, but leave the soul entirely out of the account.

Let us have our vegetable garden, with its beets and cabbages and turnips, and take good care of it too,—but then there shall be a spot set apart to be made beautiful with flowers, "God's messengers," as some one has called them, and there shall be a trellis for a vine and a climbing rose over our portico. We will have an orchard with apples, pears and peaches somewhere in the rear of our dwelling, but it need not interfere with the shade trees and shrubbery in front.

Burns turns up a "Mountain Daisy" with his plow, and while he goes on with his labor, composes one of his sweetest poems:

"Wee, modest, crimson-tipped flower,
Thou'st met me in an evil hour,
For I maun crush amang the stoure
Thy slender stem;
To spare thee now is past my power,
Thou bonnie gem."

A less delicate nature would have passed it carelessly by, or, if he noticed it at all, would, perhaps, have wondered why it could not just as well have been a potato!

Nature has many lessons for us, if we will only learn them; and who has a better opportunity to note them than the farmer, whose life is passed in watching the processes of animal and vegetable life? What a world of information he ought to collect, and *does*, if he keeps his eyes open.

"Scarcely a branch of natural science," says a writer, "but has an intimate relation to the business of agriculture, and peculiar claims upon the farmer." And he goes on to say—"Nor can any good reason be assigned why he should not have the benefit of full instruction in all the branches of useful learning."

It is not, however, the study of *books*, so much as the study of the book of Nature herself, to which we now refer, and for which the just qualification is a *habit of observation.* Creation is full of wonders and mysteries, and perhaps, you feel this as much in looking at a grasshopper's leg through a microscope, as at the most distant planet through a telescope. Perhaps there is as much mystery in the fact that an apple falls down instead of up, and that grass grows *up* instead of *down*, as in the revolution of the sun, moon and stars!

FARM WORK FOR MARCH.

The duties that devolve on the farmer in the month of *March*, though not so instant and pressing as at some other seasons, can no more be dispensed with and have the farm managed well, than can a field be well plowed with the off ox half the time out of his bow. There is so intimate a connection and interweaving of the business of all the seasons, that the omission of the cares of one must sadly impair the whole. In order, then, that *March* shall discharge its special duty to the other months, let us glance at

some of the things that she must not shift off upon April or May—and first, because of the first importance—

MANURES.—There should be as much pride with the farmer to keep everything systematic and neat, as with the merchant to keep his store so, or the captain the deck of his ship, or the mechanic his shop and tools; for thrift usually follows neatness and systematic industry.

In order to preserve these appearances upon the farm, we think as much of the manure should be hauled to the fields in the month of March, as can conveniently be done. There will be little or no loss while it freezes and remains so, and as soon as the ground thaws it may be slightly covered. Here it is, on the field where it is to be used, and where twice or three times as much can be applied to the soil in a day, as could be done if it were to be taken from the barn-yard or cellar. The finer it can be reduced, the more prompt will be its action, and larger the crop, other things being equal. In order to effect this, as soon as the frost will permit, work over, pulverize and mingle the mass, returning it into a well-rounded compact pile. Leave two or three small, long stakes inserted in it, and occasionally draw these up and notice by their warmth how far fermentation has gone on,—as nothing more than a gentle heat should be allowed to take place. A manure heap in this condition, mingled two to four inches deep in moist, porous soil, cannot fail to produce favorable results.

THE STOCK.—Milch cows will need especial care, as if they become thin and weak, it will take until near midsummer to get them into vigorous condition for the dairy.

CALVES should be generously treated. It is thought by some that an early stunt is a stunt for life; however that may be, it is clear that if a calf once loses its healthy and vigorous habit of growth, it requires much time and high feeding to restore it to its original condition.

SHEEP.—Bring to their yard, pine, hemlock, black birch and other branches from the woods, and they will be "much obliged to ye." A little better feed than usual will strengthen them, and be of much service to the lambs. Liberal feed to them of the best kinds of fodder, will afford the highest profit.

FLAX.—We have not forgotten the sunny days in the open barn floor in February and March, when the eaves were dripping, the bundles of flax drying in the sun, and when the clatter of the "brake" and the "swingling knife" merrily wore away the day. In this region, the terms used in speaking of the processes of getting out flax, would scarcely be understood, so much has the cultivation of this article fallen into decay. But among some of our readers, the scene to which we have alluded must still be a familiar and pleasant and profitable one. Let the flax be broken, swingled and hatcheled or combed, before April, or it may become an unwelcome task.

WOOD.—A calm contentment is the crowning glory of the family. What will more directly tend to this than a wood-house filled with seasoned oak, maple, beech or birch, fitted for the hearth or stove where it is intended to use it? Not anything. It needs no suggestion of ours to convince you that a good husband will provide this before planting time, if he can, and so we will not suggest it. But we urge the preservation of peace in the family, if it *does* require dry wood!

WATER.—As the hart panteth after the water-brook, so does a neat, systematic housewife for an abundance of pure, soft water. This is not always to be found in wells, or to be brought by aqueducts; but every person who has a *roof*, may have soft water. Make a cistern in the cellar, either above or below ground, and conduct the water from the roofs into it. This will be found cheaper than lugging water from the brook, or wasting soap to bring *hard* water into a condition fit for use. A plenty of pure, soft water in the family, is a wonderful promoter of the virtues and graces too!

All these things, and many more, are the proper work for March—how can they be omitted, without detriment to the business of the other months?

For the New England Farmer.

BOARDS OF AGRICULTURE FOR STATE, TOWN OR COUNTY.

What have they done, or what are they now doing? This is a fair inquiry, suggested by the perusal of his Excellency's address to the Legislature. Among the expenses of the State, he enumerates $12,000 annual payment to sustain these boards. What is the benefit of this? To be sure, certain gentlemen are prominent in office, by these organizations; some are Presidents, some Treasurers, some Trustees, &c. &c., all gratuitously, of course, except the consequence attached to the title. But if no other benefit accrues, it is hardly expedient to draw upon the hard earnings of the people for this. Can it be shown that the grounds of the State are better cultivated? that the products are increased? that the condition of the farmer is improved thereby? that the well-being of the community is improved thereby? if so, then we say, God speed the enterprise. Man is a social being, and will often do in connection with others what he would not presume to attempt alone. This is illustrated in every benevolent effort; and why may it not be, when our own good is the object of this effort? We have recently read with interest the doings of the Board of Agriculture in the State of Maine; and should be pleased to see our own Boards giving as good an account of themselves.

January, 1859. A MASSACHUSETTS MAN.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

[REPORTED BY JOHN C. MOORE, FOR THE N. E. FARMER.]

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION—*The duty of the Government to encourage the development of its industrial resources, especially the improvement of its Agriculture, as being the foundation of the prosperity and security of its people.*

The members of this Society met in the Representatives' Hall on Monday evening at 7 o'clock. The attendance was respectable, and included many gentlemen whose practical opinions have been fortified by sage experience in the art and *science* of farming. His Excellency, Gov. BANKS, presided.

Mr. FLINT, the Secretary, reported the names of the following gentlemen as a Committee of Arrangements for the meetings of the Society, and the report was accepted:—Messrs. BAGG and PECK, of the Senate, and Messrs. MILLER, of Coleraine, PAGE, of Brimfield, SARGENT, of Newbury, BARRETT, of Auburn, and NASH, of Granby.

Mr. FLINT, the Secretary, then read the following resolutions as the basis of the evening's discussion:—

Resolved, That it is the duty of every civilized government to encourage the development of its industrial resources, and es pecially the improvement of its Agriculture, as being the true foundation of the prosperity and security of its people.

Resolved, That the formation of *Farmers' Clubs* for the discussion of Agricultural topics, the promotion of *Agricultural Libraries* for the use of the people, the holding of local or town fairs as auxiliary to the county and State exhibitions, and the collection of Agricultural products and objects illustrating the various departments of the *Natural History* of the country, are among the most practical modes of developing the Agricultural intelligence of the community.

Gov. BANKS, although he said he was unprepared for the task, spoke to the resolutions at length, and with great ability. We can only furnish a brief epitome of his speech, and those which succeeded it. He argued that it was the duty of the national government to give its protection to the interests of Agriculture, although the extent of that protection was a subject concerning which there was much division of opinion. The substance of his observations on this particular included the assertion that, in respect to all our material industrial interests, the duty of the government was to protect them to the extent of exacting as much revenue as sufficed for its support, and no more. Regarding the duty of the local government in encouraging the industrial interests of the people, His Excellency thought there could be no question, generally; but the query arose—*What is the best method for their development?* The people of the Commonwealth, he believed, to be willing to sustain and encourage that of Agriculture, as it was with us, as with the States at large, the original universal interest from which all others had to draw recruits to fill the avenues made in the professional and mechanical occupations by retirement and death. What did we see in State Street every day? Men born in Boston, building high the professional and commercial fame of the city? No! but men from the country, who came here, not with jaded look and weakened minds—men with the strong, solid frames, of such as breathed the mountain air, and lived by healthy, invigorating employment. And as it was here, so was it everywhere else. In this respect the encouragement of agriculture was important. But, in another point of view, a more liberal attention to agriculture was necessary as tending to show what the true wealth of the State really was. We required from time to time to realize what we could do. We ought to know, and how should we manage to inform ourselves? Only by the accumulation of the products of the State—their aggregation precisely in the way followed by commercial men in regard to the products in which they had a peculiar interest. If the process showed that we have wants, it also told the manner of their supply, and was useful in this special degree; if it exhibited the power on our part to export, it showed our strength—that we had the whole world to trade with, and to draw upon for whatever our requirements suggested. If such accretion of products was not also made for the purpose of example, even, improvement would lag behind. Community of example and opinion have ever been the best incentive to the advancement and improvements; for it had always been found to be the best way to interchange visits where the results of each year's exchange and labor were brought together, where comparisons could be instituted and valuable suggestions taught. No better mode of proceeding could be adopted than that specified in the second resolution. Bring on, then, our products, and show us what has and what can be done; and, although we may not attain to a perfect organization and superior merit in a day, or even a series of years, we may ultimately reach a position which, without incentives, we would never have reached.

His Excellency proceeded to say that he had no idea until last summer of the extent of the agricultural interest in the Commonwealth, but he determined that he should place himself in the best position to know. Placing himself at the direction of his friend, Mr. Secretary FLINT, his first inquiry was relating to the places and periods where the required information was best attainable. But almost every portion of the State had its agricultural exhibition about the same time, and but a few of the whole could be seen by one individual. This certainly was not right, and nothing but failure could proceed from such malarrangements. People must go beyond the limits of their own town, or district, or county,

to see what they have not been accustomed to see at home. They ought to have opportunity to see the best products of the State aggregated, and then they would be ready to exclaim—"Why is this? What cattle and products I see here! Why is it that I have never heard of such before?" Of course men thus surprised would be very apt to inquire how these superior animals and products were cultivated and perfected—glean lessons of value in the answers—and hence the value of the example, which never could have been had through a merely local exhibition. As exhibitions of what we have in Massachusetts, they are insufficient, for they furnish no idea of what we can or may do; and as this defect constituted a great evil, its correction should be kept for a moment out of sight. No opportunity was furnished at meetings for discussion—although there were very fine speeches made—excellent anecdotes related, and small talk plentiful. The least instruction in respect to anything is found in an after-dinner speech, for in them there is just a glimpse at practical matters. And so one might go from table to table—from pen to pen—and solid information invariably keeps well aloof. But by the very nature of their gatherings, farmers require instruction.—They have a previous knowledge of whatever is worthy in their own localities, and they do not require to have it repeated. But example and discussion are both; therefore, let useless practices be abandoned, and clubs be formed and discussions take place all the year through, and the result would turn out good. To spend one day or two per annum in sober trifling, never would be of any value. The interest of the State demanded that a better system should be inaugurated—a more advanced and profitable cultivation of the soil—and to effect this end, discussions such as were recommended in the resolution would be highly beneficial. The State already gave some $13,000 per annum for the encouragement of Agriculture, and was probably ready to be more liberal, in the shape, it might be, of employing agents conversant with rural affairs, to visit the several localities, and teach farmers the most improved manner of enlarging their products; and in this connection it would be well to institute such clubs as the second resolution specified, that these teachings could be discussed and their value applied in practice. It would ultimate in a much greater benefit to the farming interests than the present system of local shows, and at the same, or very little more expense. County exhibitions might be retained with some degree of profit if their meetings could be distributed over the districts; but, periodically, the people should be called together to see what the State could do; for the farmer's prosperity was emphatically bound to that of the Commonwealth, and whatever he did to improve his own interests, in similar degree did he contribute to those pertaining to the general welfare. These observations, His Excellency said, in conclusion, were thrown out without any preparation, and he hoped the discussion would have such attention from the meeting as to elicit the most reliable and safe opinions.

SIMON BROWN, editor of the *N. E. Farmer*, was called on by His Excellency to speak.

He said the question before the meeting was one which had occupied his thoughts for many years, although he doubted his competency to lay his views respecting it before the audience in so clear a manner as he could wish. He proposed to confine his observations to the subject of the second resolution, which related to the State. Massachusetts stood high among her sister States in point of education, morals, arts, sciences and agriculture. Her institutions were of the most liberal and enlightened character, and were everywhere copied because of their perfection; her laws were approved on the same grounds, and no section of the union was oftener looked up to and copied as an example, than Massachusetts. It would be strange, then, if she should be found to have neglected any one of the prominent interests of the people; but it was otherwise with her, for she had done everything to promote their welfare. Glance over her territory, and it would be found that her charities recognized every citizen within her limits—that those who were lowest, and who had the least care from those who ought to provide for them, are never forgotten or neglected. She had made ample provision for the alleviation of the unfortunate and the suffering. Look at her alms-houses! How many are there? Not only her own citizens, but people from almost every nation in the earth. Could such a State neglect any one of her interests? Decidedly not! Bounties have been in turn offered by her to everything which needed protection. The County Agricultural Societies receive $12,000 from her per annum, and in past times she has spent much money in their behalf. But had her generosity always been properly appreciated, and her kindness acknowledged? They were not? Some of the counties were endowed with as many as four societies, receiving, severally, bounties amounting to $400 and $600 annually, and what had been the conduct of some toward this liberality? If a farmer raised a pair of fine oxen to which a county prize was assigned, the State required of him a specific statement how he had accomplished it, so that his skill and mode of practice should be imparted to every other citizen of the State. And this ought to end the whole matter between them—the farmer

having received the *first premium*, and the State, as an equivalent for its bounty, a specific statement of the manner of producing the article. But it is quite often otherwise; the information given is frequently incomplete, and the stock, or article receiving the premium, is *taken to other shows*, and premiums again awarded, thus perpetrating a fraud upon the bounty of the State, and cutting off others from the privileges of a fair competition! These facts are well known—that the same plowman, the same stock, the same old rug, vegetables, grains and implements, after having once received the *highest premium* at one exhibition, are entered at another and again paid the highest prize! This is evidently contrary to the intention of the Legislature, a misapplication of its bounty, and certainly not the spirit in which the generosity of the State should be met; in order to prevent such practices in future, the Legislature should enact a law that *there should be only one agricultural society receiving bounty from the public funds* IN EACH COUNTY *in the State*. She long ago employed Mr. COLMAN to make agricultural surveys of the counties, and to whose valuable reports we were so much indebted—for sending Prof. HITCHCOCK abroad at her expense to inspect the agricultural schools there, and show us what we could do at home, if we had the will; for publishing works on the *Fishes*, *Quadrupeds*, *Insects* and *Geology* of the State, each being a monument of her liberality and high purpose, and for establishing a Board of Agriculture which she still generously sustains. Had she ever been parsimonious? By no means; she had done all she ought to do; we ought to be satisfied with her liberality, and if we had not made a progress in propotion to its extent, it was our fault, not hers.

What, then, ought to be done, as things now stood? Massachusetts should legislate for the farmer as faithfully as she has done for the manufacturer. Scope for that duty was ample. Let her, among other things, fix on a mode for the measurement of milk. What is a can of milk? a myth, a fabulous hydra, which nobody knows or can reasonably pretend to understand. So far as it could be practically described, it was 9½ quarts when the producer was concerned, and 7 when the buyer became interested, and 10 quarts when resold to city customers!! Let us know what a can is, so that those who furnish large quantities of milk per diem for use in the city, may know how to sell. In this connection, proper officers should be employed to investigate the quality of milk, and detect its adulteration. One-fourth of it would be found to be Cochituate water after it came through the hands of the sellers, as could be proved if pains were properly taken. So much for law; and as for money, none was needed from the State beyond the bounties already awarded for agricultural encouragement. If the treasury was wide open, Mr. BROWN said, he would not take a dollar to add to that bounty. Farmers did not want it in order to obtain the information they need. In respect to agricultural information the best way was to commence at the soil, and educate the farmer thence upwards, so that he might be proud of his products as the mechanic was of his invention, or the sculptor of his finished marble. Make a man proud of his vocation, and much to ennoble it would be accomplished. Why was the hall not filled to-night? Because the people do not care for farming, although they all acknowledge it the organic element in the general prosperity. If this were a discussion of some political party, these seats would be crowded, and the speakers cheered with audible approbation. These vacant seats are so many records of the *indifference* of the community with regard to agriculture as an occupation, and of the importance of instituting a series of meetings and discussions *among the people themselves* to aid them in obtaining a better knowledge of the practical operations of the farm, and of the elementary principles that are indispensable in its profitable pursuits. The person who wrote the article in the *Atlantic Monthly*, which has created so much comment, was right in his estimate of *some* farmers; but he made a mistake in constituting a general rule for the exceptions he had too truly before him. The fault lies mainly with the farmer that his calling is thought ungenteel; he is content to hear and profit not—to listen perpetually to others and produce nothing mental himself.

Now what is wanted, is simply that the farmer should understand his business—that he should *know how to do what he undertakes*—and that he should endeavor to make his son understand it as well. He had no objection to Colleges for instruction in the scientific principles of agriculture, for the investigation of theories, or for any good purposes which they may subserve, but our first effort, the effort of the present moment, must be, to begin with the simplest elements, and teach them in various portions of each county in connection with the true principles of the practical operations of the farm. If a college were already in operation, he knew of no young men ready to enter it, merely because they had enjoyed no opportunity to qualify themselves for such a position. Who had taught them, and where? On the contrary, we should begin at the lower round of the ladder, and climb progressively and surely to the top. This object would be effected if farmers only loved their occupation. They would cherish it, and talk of it earnestly, and men would listen to them and be taught to profit by their

words. Prompted by this love of their occupation, individual effort among farmers would soon work wonders, and on individual effort everything, almost, depended. In conjunction with Farmers' Clubs no limit could be placed to the good it would accomplish; and if gentlemen would go home determined to institute them, if in five years hence they failed to pay for themselves, Mr. BROWN said he would, if able, be responsible for the intermediate outlay. Besides the credit of aiding the noblest of all human interest up to the mark of its highest improvement, it should be understood that the benefits of such associations, intellectually considered, would be important and useful to individuals in teaching them to condense and express the promptings of their minds. Mr. BROWN concluded by advising that no society should be allowed to duplicate its premiums year and year again, in favor of the same article or animal; that counties spend a portion of their bounty money in the encouragement of meetings and discussions among the people, as where this had been done in New Hampshire and elsewhere, the very best results had followed, and the meeting might rely on it that such good would follow as they had never known to proceed from any hitherto tried means.

SANFORD HOWARD, Esq., of the *Cultivator*, was the next speaker. He endorsed the sentiments of the previous speakers; advocated an extended area of comparison in connection with the products of the State, and illustrated its benefits by relating sundry appropriate anecdotes; recommended but one society in counties, which should have its exhibitions distributed over the territory; approved of Farmers' Clubs, and stated his belief that a due attention to their interests would enable farmers to add a very large per centtage to their products at a very trifling expense of labor as contrasted with the unscientific manner in which many of them operated at present.

JOHN BROOKS, of Princeton, spoke in opposition to the importing of foreign scientific agriculture to American farmers, as it had always proved unreliable, and in favor of our constituting a science from what our experience taught us. He approved of State exhibitions if conducted by the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. SHELDON, of Wilmington, put in a plea for the right of every man to have a portion of the public territory to till—in other words, that it was the burden and duty of Uncle Sam, seeing he had the means, to "give every man a farm."

Mr. BROWN, of Concord, then offered the following resolution for the acceptance of the meeting:

Resolved, That the Legislature be requested to pass an act requiring each county society receiving a portion of its bounty to devote one-third of the whole amount received to the support of Agricultural meetings and discussions in various parts of the county.

After being discussed by Rev. Mr. BABBIDGE, of Pepperell, W. J. BUCKMINSTER, Esq., and others, the resolution of Mr. BROWN was laid on the table, with the view that time should be granted the society to consider and act upon it deliberately.

The meeting occupied over two hours; and at its close Mr. FLINT announced the subject for discussion Monday evening to be, "*What breeds of stock are best adapted to mixed farming?*"

For the New England Farmer.

CONGRATULATORY---THE FRENCHES---NEW ENGLAND.

MR. EDITOR:—The monthly *Farmer* for January, 1859, has come to hand, and "looks like a *picture*," as fond mothers and nursery-maids say. As "the apparel oft proclaims the man," so also does it the periodical. Its type and paper are excellent; worthy the matter it presents and the price charged. Good, substantial, white paper gives good typography, as good land good crops.

Your associate, Judge French, I perceive, has given you and your rural home a regular "set to!" But it is what you might have expected from a lawyer; and there is no doubt, from his own admission on the stand, that he smuggled the article in, in utter violation of the *lex scripta*, the *lex non scripta*, and all the other recognized lexes of the land! With such a man you probably claim no "kith or kin;" and undoubtedly, on the first opportunity, you will make him feel the *lex talionis*.

But, "Know all men by these presents," nevertheless, however, notwithstanding—Judge French is a man after my own heart. Probably he is regarded as a "good lawyer," (if the phrase is not a contradiction!) and an unimpeachable judge; and the readers of your journal know he has some critical knowledge of agriculture—neat cattle, swine, and particularly horses—so that he of course, must be

"Great on the bench, great in the saddle"

Besides, he possesses a fine vein of wit and humor. It crops out in all his topics, or rushes melting into all their chasms. In other words, he *overflows* with mirth; and no system of *underdraining* has sufficed to abate it! Whether in charging a grave jury or "teaching the young idea how *to hoe*," I apprehend it must be forever welling up. This agreeable humor, often coming in contact—perhaps through the *Farmer*—with that of a sourer and graver nature, forms a kind of neutral salt, which may be of some benefit to agriculturists, if not to agriculture! A disposition like Mr. French's, capable of diffusing so much happiness among others, surely need not go abroad for its own.

But there is another French who writes for your paper. If I read understandingly, he was raised in New Hampshire, but was taken up and transplanted into the polyglot city of Washington, where the sword of the nation officially hangs, and where he has been spreading his branches, perhaps in more than native luxuriance, for there exists a peculiarly rich alluvion, (formed from

the occidental Pactolus. in which exotics are usually planted,) not readily found in any other geological district! His botanical initials are B. B. When he first began to write for the *Farmer* I supposed him to be a spurious French—an inferior species of the genus that had been falsely labelled—but I am now convinced of my error, and feel satisfied that he is a regular—"Yankee doodle dandy."

New England is not so grave as formerly. The bustle and business of her great cities and expanding villages, together with more wisdom, have dissipated her "physiognomy of grace." She now looks with a smiling face upon her embellished farms and industrious workshops, rather than with a sad one into her churches. She has become as independent, if not more so, than any other section of the Union, and her stability is not likely to be disturbed. Read the following extract from a speech of Hon. Tristam Burgess, delivered in Congress in the times of southern nullification, when much sectional feeling was exhibited against the north respecting a protective tariff. Read it, New England men, and if you cannot heartily respond to it, search for something more sublime elsewhere in the English language.

"O no—place New England in a region of rock, without earth or water, our labor shall drill the solid stone, and like the staff of the Prophet, let out the gushing stream. Our perseverance shall beat the flint into small dust, and cover the whole surface with soil The dews and the rain, and the sunshine of Heaven, the only creatures of God left by you in amity with us, shall give to our new earth moisture and fertility; and time, and labor, and God's blessing, shall cover the whole region with verdure." D. W. L.

W. Medford, Jan., 1859.

For the New England Farmer.

DISEASED HENS---LOW ROOSTS.

MR. EDITOR:—I notice a communication in your January number, from C. T. Paine, respecting diseased hens, and with your permission, I will give what I think the main cause of it is *It is in the construction of the roost.* I was formerly troubled in the same way, and it was sometime before I discovered a remedy. My roosting room is 12 feet square, and 8 feet high in the clear. My roosts were formerly constructed like ladders, two of them, say 7 feet wide, placed leaning against each other, at an angle of 45°, the rounds or roosts 2 feet apart, the top one being 7 feet from the floor. I noticed that the hen was never satisfied unless she could place herself on the topmost round, this being the height of her ambition. In the morning, instead of jumping to the next roost below, and so on, in order to get down, she would almost invariably jump the whole 7 feet, hitting herself against the building, or striking hard upon the floor. Some of the oldest and fattest hens would at times not come down all day, for fear of hurting themselves, and occasionally I found eggs broken, and soft eggs under the roost dropt from these fowls. I sometimes took them down from the roost by hand, that they might eat, or I believe they would have remained on the roost until compelled by hunger to come down. I accordingly had the roost altered, the top one not over 4 feet from the floor, and the hens then came down in the morning without difficulty. Since that time, I have not been troubled with diseased fowls, or eggs broken under the roost.

Should a hen lay soft shelled eggs, put chalk, refuse lime, pounded bones or shells within her reach, and you will have no more of it.

I also find another bad feature among persons who keep fowls, which I think brings on disease. It is in allowing too many cocks to run with the hens. Many cocks are large and heavy, and they not only worry the hens badly, but frequently break them down, and cripple them. I have seen them with their spines so badly hurt, as to lose the entire use of their legs from this cause. In no case should there be more than one cock to eight hens. I have at this time but one to twenty hens, and I find an increased supply of eggs in consequence of it, but in the breeding season, keep more. My rule for some years being, to purchase the best cock I can find in the spring, never using one raised by myself as a breeder, and never keep a hen over one, or at most, two winters. By adopting this plan, and giving them plenty, and a variety to eat, with care and cleanliness, I am never without good poultry, and plenty of eggs, and the case is rare with a diseased hen, and a soft-shelled egg.

Canton, Jan., 1859. LOW ROOST.

For the New England Farmer.

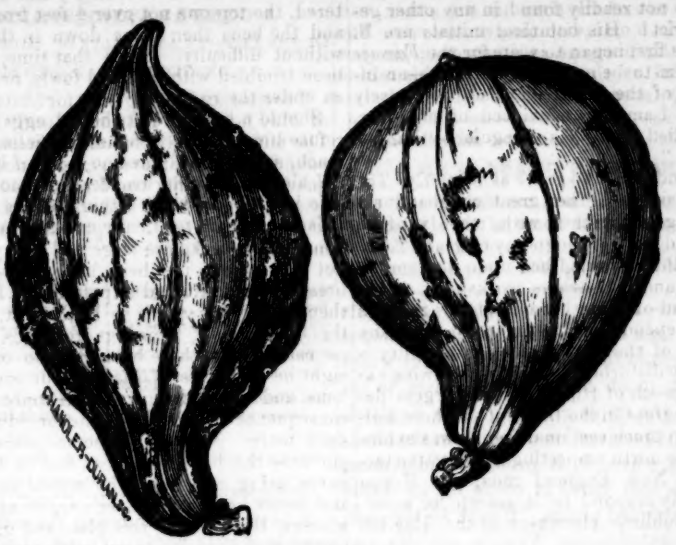
SHAPE OF SLEIGH RUNNERS.

Nearly all our sleighs are made with one defect. The hind part of the runner should slant upward to correspond to the forward part. The cast iron sled shoes used on the heavy Boston sleds are shaped right in this respect. They are alike at each end.

Whenever a sleigh, whose runners are straight clear out, goes over a hollow place in the road, the runner at the extremity *cuts in*, sometimes into the hardest road; because, perhaps, nearly the whole load presses down upon an abrupt corner. Now, if the runner were bent up, instead of cutting in, as so often noticed, thereby greatly increasing the draft, as well as jarring unpleasantly the occupants of the vehicle, it would glide smoothly along, and go through the cradle holes without cutting them deeper. W. D. B.

Concord, Mass.

EVERY INCH of rain falling in the course of a year, is equal to a weight of rather more than 100 tons of water per each imperial acre. The mean annual quantity of rain in Detroit, is 28.300 inches; equal to nearly 2,900 tons of water falling annually on each acre of land. At Dearbornville Arsenal, Mich., the mean annual rain is only 21.610, the smallest quantity, or the dryest piace, given in the *Army Meteorological Register*, for the whole United States. The highest mean or wettest place is West Point, N. Y., where 64.670 inches of rain is the annual mean quantity, equal to 6,467 tons of water on each acre.—*Farmer's Companion.*



THE HUBBARD SQUASH.

This squash is an important acquisition to our list of vegetables, as nothing of the kind ever served upon our table equals it in quality either for boiling or for pies. It has one property not mentioned in the extract which follows from Mr. GREGORY'S circular, and that is, that the Hubbard squash, in the early stage of its growth, is far better for boiling than any *summer squash* we have ever tasted. Mr. G. says:—

With the single error of the absence of a concave ring in the stem where it unites with the squash, the engraving conveys to the eye all that is possible without the aid of color. The color of one variety is a dark, dull green, about an olive green, usually accompanied with lines of a dirty white color, which begin at the calyx and extend, in the depressions of the sutures, about two-thirds the length of the squash; that portion of the surface exposed to the direct action of the sun's rays is often of a brownish hue. The other variety is of a light clay blue color. Each of the varieties have usually a dense, hard shell, somewhat thicker than a cent, and often abounding with rough, knotty protuberances. The flesh is usually of a very deep orange color, usually thicker than the Marrow, and remarkably fine-grained and compact in its structure. In quality this squash is universally conceded, as far as opinions of its merits have been expressed, to rank at the head of the numerous varieties of the squash family cultivated in the United States. Its characteristics are an exceeding dryness of the grain from the time of harvesting until the middle or close of November, after which it becomes less dry, but very sweet and fine-flavored, tasting sometimes like a sweet potato, at others like a boiled chestnut. In keeping properties it excels the *Marrow* and its varieties, keeping its qualities unimpaired about three months later than these, until late in the spring. The true measure of the keeping properties of any variety of squash, is, not how long it will keep from decaying, but how long it will preserve its good qualities. In weight the Hubbard averages the same as the pure Marrow squash, though specimens have been raised under circumstances peculiarly favorable, weighing upwards of twenty pounds.

While making up this account, we received by mail the following note:—

The Hubbard Squash—seeds of which are now furnished by J. J. H. Gregory, of Marblehead, I have raised and tested repeatedly, and find it superior to any other variety I have ever met. It is as superior in the quality of its meat, as it is inferior in its external appearance. The specimens I have seen, have ranged in weight, from three to eight pounds, generally not more than six pounds. It is worth trying by all who have a taste for the delicious. J. W. PROCTOR.

South Danvers, Jan., 1859.

A NEW KIND OF APE.—Prof. Owen, the celebrated naturalist, delivered a lecture with diagrams, on man-like apes, and described a new species recently discovered on the western coast of Africa, named the Gorrilla species, the adults of which attain the hight of five feet five inches, and are three feet broad across the chest. Its head is double the size of a man's, and its extremities are enormously developed. They existed in some numbers in the interminable forests of the Grambia river. The negroes of the country, in their excursions into the forest in search of ivory, exhibited little fear of the lion as it slunk away from man, but they dreaded the

gorrilla, for when he saw men advancing, he came down out of the trees to the attack, and could strangle a man with the greatest ease. The strength of this man-ape is enormous; his jaw is as powerful as that of a lion, and his canine teeth equally formidable.

For the New England Farmer.

HUNGARIAN GRASS SEED.

Will you please inform me through your paper where I can obtain some of the Hungarian grass seed? S. E. T.

Warren, Mass., Jan., 1859.

REMARKS.—Among the new forage plants which from time to time have been introduced to the farmer, the *Hungarian Grass* is one which has met with much favor, and promises to become one of the staple grasses of New England. We suppose it receives its name from the country, *Hungary*, where it is probably indigenous, and supports vast herds of cattle on its fertile and widely extended plains. If such be the case, it must be adapted to our Western prairies, and become invaluable there both for pasture and hay crops.

If this grass is to prove a valuable acquisition, as we believe it will, the pure seed ought to be afforded to the farmer at a fair profit, so that he may avail himself of it at once.

Side by side with the inquiry of our Warren correspondent, we have a little pamphlet entitled, "*Honey Blade Hungarian Grass Seed*," emblazoned with the Coat of Arms of Hungary, and giving a history of the grass, with numerous extracts from newspapers, by one Felix H. Benton. The pamphlet bears upon its title the imprint, "J. M. Emerson & Co., No. 406 Broadway, N. Y." Of all this we make no complaint—it is one of those amiable weaknesses often resorted to, to catch the popular eye and ear. But when we come to the git of the thing, the point that is to *draw upon the pocket of the purchaser*, we find a duty resting upon us which we embrace the earliest opportunity to discharge. The pamphlet before us reads thus:—

It will be put up in uniform bags of about sixteen pounds each, the amount in each bag being sufficient to seed an acre.

The prices will be as follows:—

One bag for one acre	$3,00
Club for eleven bags	25,00

Now we beg leave to say to our friends that the *pure Hungarian Grass Seed* will be for sale in this city, at the Agricultural Warehouse of *Nourse, Mason & Co.*, Quincy Hall, or of *Nourse & Co.*, 34 Merchants Row, for $4,00 per bushel at retail, and $3,00 in large quantities, thus saving about the sum of $5,00 on each bushel purchased, for it takes, as we learn, *three* bags of *about* sixteen pounds each, to make a bushel!

For the New England Farmer.

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

OF THE PRODUCT AND VALUE OF MILK AND BUTTER.

BY GEORGE S. BOUTWELL.

I commenced saving milk for butter on the 10th of May last, and continued until October 1st. The milk was weighed once a week, and twenty pounds were considered equal to one can of eight quarts. The milk would have sold for eighteen cents a can, and the butter was sold for twenty-four cents a pound. I give the result of each month's operations:

MILK.		BUTTER.	
May, 163 cars	$29,34	177½ lbs.	$42,60
June, 241½ cans	43,47	201½ lbs.	48,36
July, 188½ cans	33,93	166½ lbs.	40,02
Aug., 211½ cans	38,07	193½ lbs.	46,50
Sept., 202½ cans	36,45	174½ lbs.	41,94
	$181,26		$219,42
Cost of making 914½ lbs. butter at 5½c.	$50,28	Value of residue of 1007 cans at 8c.	$80,56
	$231,54		$299,98 231,54
		Difference in favor of butter	$68,44

It is thus seen that during the entire season 22 pounds of milk produced a pound of butter; but in the month of May only 18.3 pounds were required.

Groton, January 10, 1859.

HENS LAYING ALL THE YEAR.

Some people think that if they keep their hens warm in the winter, that they will lay eggs freely all the year, but that is a mistake, as fowls can be made to lay but about 10 dozen eggs each in the year, if ever so great pains are taken with them in the winter; and when they lay a good deal in the winter they lay enough less in the spring, so that not over the average of 10 dozen eggs are obtained usually. The *Prairie Farmer* has the following statement, which leads one to infer that his hens may be made to lay 100 or 300 eggs in a year—according to the management of them. Still the better treatment spoken of is advisable, as more eggs will be laid in the winter, by adopting it, when they command a better price, but it will be at the expense of the regular spring laying:

TREATMENT OF HENS.—Two flocks of hens were compared. One laid eggs almost all the time; the other laid scarcely any. On examining their treatment, the following differences were found to exist: the former had a warm cellar to roost in during the winter; the latter roosted in a stable where the wind blew in. The former had a fine place in an open cellar for scratching among ashes, lime, and earth; the latter scratched in the manure heap, or in the stable when the cows were put out. The forner had plenty of of good water, with milk, &c., the others had no drink except what they could find.—*Rural American.*

LARGE HOGS.—Mr. Benjamin Derby, of this town, has slaughtered this week two hogs which weighed thirteen hundred and thirty-five pounds. The weight of the larger was seven hundred and twenty-eight pounds. W. D. B.

Concord, Mass., Jan. 7, 1859.

For the New England Farmer.

CORN AND CORN STALKS.

Among my earliest recollections of the corn crop is seeing the then universal practice pursued of cutting the stalks. This was generally done early in September. They were bound and stooked the same day, and in two or three weeks, as the convenience of the farmer directed, they were housed for winter fodder. It was an animating sight, to see the ripe and ripening corn crops, the husks falling from the long golden ears, reflective of rich maturity as the sunbeams fell upon them. But innovation was in due time to spoil these beautiful features in the autumnal landscape. Somebody tried the experiment in a cold season of cutting up corn when half matured and stacking it an indefinite period. Circumstances favored the experiment. Perhaps an early frost cut off the standing corn and prevented its attaining the same degree of maturity with that which was cut up. At any rate, the thing took, and for a few years every farmer, nearly, adopted the practice of cutting up his corn early, to ripen in stacks. For a year or two, I was among the popular number that adopted this course, but my experience was so bitter that the "old fogy" arose within me, and I returned to the old way, which I have persistently followed.

The objections that I found to the "new way," were that it made a heavy work of harvesting; that in order to have the corn get sufficiently dry for husking and housing, a length of time was required that materially injured the stalks for fodder, and, what was worse than all, the corn was not so bright and heavy, while the good, rich, old-fashioned golden puddings were out of question. There was not the life or nutriment in the meal, I find in that where the grain ripens "the natural way." Such were my impressions, at least, and in order to convince myself whether it was a *whim*, I inquired of several millers, of the relative value of corn harvested in the two ways, and found them unanimous in declaring in favor of grain ripened on the hills.

Farmers, too, are beginning to see the difference as every year's observations go to show, while some who still cut up their corn admit the inferiority of their mode of harvesting, but plead the saving of labor at the cost of the ultimate value of the crop. Then others have taken the other extreme, and question the propriety of disturbing the stalks at all until the crop has ripened. After the pollen has fallen from the tassels, one service of the stalk is performed. Yet there can be no doubt but the stalk and leaves above the ear are of service in elaborating sap, and in absorptions from the atmosphere long after the follen has ceased to fall, and when the tassel is becoming dry, and the greater the amount of elaborated sap that is thrown into the ear, the more rapidly it will mature, and the more perfect its maturity. But when the leaves begin to dry upon their edges, and exhibit around the border a torn appearance, it matters but little how soon the stalks are taken off, which should always be done in fine weather, and they put in a condition to hay as fast as possible. A few fine days will hay them thoroughly, and if they are well secured, all kinds of stock will thrive upon them.

After the tops reach the condition above alluded to, and are taken off, the point of separation soon dries over, so as to prevent the evaporation of sap through the wound, and it is turned into the ear to give the kernel maturity, while an increased exposure to the sun urges forward the ripening of the grain, which, matured in this way, unless the stalk falls to let it on the ground, will long remain uninjured by storms.

Then the amount of fodder saved by cutting up the butts at harvesting with the stalks already properly secured, will not lose in comparison of the fodder saved by cutting up the whole at once. Stock will do well on the leaves of the butts if fed to them in early winter, to the exclusion of other fodder, which may, probably, if given out, create a distaste for them; for animals, like men, will leave the less valuable food for the best when both are set before them.

The idea of raising corn, is, first for the crop of grain, the fodder coming in as an extra. Then, the next thing is to get the largest amount of sound, bright corn. This, in my experience, is gained by cutting the stalks as soon as they begin to show full maturity. If corn stalk fodder is the thing sought, the better way is, to sow broadcast, and harvest when the stalks have attained their growth. W. BACON.

Richmond, Jan., 1859.

For the New England Farmer.

WHEN AND HOW TO USE MANURES.

MR. EDITOR:—Being a reader of the *N. E. Farmer* (monthly,) I notice that there are various theories about the use of *green manures*, especially that taken out of "barn cellars." More particularly a communication from A. WARD, in the December number of 1858, and one from R. MANSFIELD, in the January number of 1859. Mr. W. seems to be at a loss how to apply his manure, and Mr. M. seems to suggest the idea that the south side of, and under the eaves of the barn, is the most suitable place for manure to be kept, and as my experience and practice is rather different from that of Mr. M., I venture to give my experience in corn raising for the last three years.

Four years ago a cellar was made under my barn 8 feet deep, for a shed for cattle and deposit for manure, the cattle being kept in the stable above, the manure falling directly underneath, and thus receiving the urine of the cattle. I cut all kinds of fodder except hay, and what is left, if any, is used for litter; thus my manure in the spring is all fine, and I am not troubled with what is called "long manure."

My practice has been, generally, to break up my green sward, which is a sandy loam from 8 to 10 inches deep, late in the fall; in the spring roll my ground, cart out my manure in its green and crude state, from 15 to 18 cords to the acre. Spread upon the ground and immediately give it a thorough harrowing, or cultivating so as to thoroughly mix the manure with the soil; then, just before planting, plow the ground from 3 to 5 inches, and harrow again. For the last three years I have raised from 60 to 70 bushels of corn per acre. My success I attribute to the strength and thorough mixture of the manure with the soil

All the manure from my cattle, horses and

hogs, is kept under cover until carted out in the spring, and as long as my crops of corn, oats, potatoes and hay are about double what they used to be under the old system of having the manure scattered about the yard, and the heaps at the windows "under the eaves on the south side of the barn," I think I shall continue the practice of keeping it from sun and rains until wanted for use, or until I am convinced that I am in an error. W. C. WHITE.

Barre, Vt., Jan. 9, 1859.

REMARKS.—Statements of such practical operations as the above are valuable, and will help to settle the question under discussion. We shall be glad to have Mr. WHITE still further aid us in settling it.

THE OLD MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY.

The Transactions of the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture have been laid on our table.

This time-honored Society has now been steadily and diligently pursuing the object for which it was established, for sixty-six years. Associated in its labors, have been from the beginning, some of the most talented, philanthropic and patriotic men in our Commonwealth. This society is believed to be the third in order of time, formed, established and endorsed, (in any part of the world) to promote the cause of agriculture, and has never lost sight of its object. It has been chiefly sustained, and its funds furnished by the "merchant princes and solid men" of Boston, who have been as fully awake to the importance of agriculture to the prosperity of the Commonwealth, as any other class of its citizens. They were the first to take into consideration the low state of agriculture in the State, and to associate themselves and procure from the Legislature an act of incorporation for its promotion. They have held monthly meetings and devoted unstinted labor to the object. They have initiated a large proportion of the improvements and institutions to which the State is now indebted for the advanced condition of its agriculture. We will now enumerate a few of them.

In 1801, Fairs for the sale of stock were proposed by them, which were the origin of the present fairs held at Cambridge and Brighton.

In 1802, Merino sheep were introduced into the State, under their auspices.

In 1804, the Botanic Garden at Cambridge owned its establishment to their efforts, and was sustained in part by their funds for several years.

In 1808, they offered $1000 in premiums for various agricultural and mechanical improvements.

In 1809, they imported a plow, which, with the premiums they subsequently offered, awakened an interest in the improvement of this the most important implement in agriculture.

In 1813, an agricultural journal was issued under their supervision, which was continued several years, and contained a large number of valuable papers, and was not discontinued till agricultural newspapers were ready to supply its place.

In 1814, they gave the first premium to a straw-cutter and threshing-machine.

In 1816, the Society held its first Cattle Show at Brighton. In the same year they gave various premiums for agricultural machines, and imported two Alderney bulls and two cows.

In 1817, they established the first plowing-match ever held in the State, and which led to their establishment throughout the State.

In 1819, they imported wheat and turnip seed from France and millet from Russia.

In 1821, they offered $2000 in premiums for stock, farms, farm products and implements.

In 1823, they offered large premiums for farms, and introduced the mangold-wurtzel and rutabaga.

In 1824, they procured a Hereford bull and heifer.

In 1825, a Yorkshire stallion and mare.

In 1835, they imported at large expense, an Ayrshire bull and three cows.

In 1845, they imported specimens of Devon stock.

In 1850, they imported more Alderney stock.

For the present year they have offered $1000 for the best plantation of forest trees suitable for ship timber, of five acres, and $500 for the best conducted farm.

During this long period, they have aided by their funds and influence the several county societies, all which may be considered the legitimate offspring of this venerable parent. The Middlesex Society, the oldest of the flourishing family, owes its origin to a circular addressed to several gentlemen in the interior of that county by this Society, and the rest have been born in regular succession. Since the county societies have established annual fairs all over the State, the Massachusetts Society has ceased its annual exhibitions, and appropriated its funds to the diffusion of information, the importation of stock and other measures designed to promote agriculture throughout the State, and especially such measures as would not be likely to be undertaken by the county societies. Its action for the few years last past has not brought its officers so directly into personal contact with the farming population of the State, as formerly. As its movements occupy a smaller space in public, and make less show and parade, some have been led to infer that it is falling into its dotage. But we are

not at all disposed to make this inference. It is aiding the good cause, by means, which, though quiet and unostentatious, are yet powerful, and will be felt for good, long after the more noisy displays of those who are good farmers periodically, have been forgotton.

The present volume is highly creditable to the Recording Secretary, and suggests the value and interest of a more extended selection from the records of the Society. A history of the agriculture of the State would show who have ever been the true friends of the farmer, and if prepared as it would be by the Secretary, would be a noble monument to the memory of the noble men who founded this Society.

A brief statement of what the Society *has done*, scattered among the people, would not only be a matter of justice to the Society itself, but would correct that spirit of complaint which has been manifested within two or three years past. Those who conduct its affairs are men of the world, of integrity, and of sound judgment, and are unquestionably desirous of promoting the agricultural interests of the State in every way, so far as their personal labors and the funds placed in their control will permit.

For our part, the Society has our respect and gratitude, and we wish it a long life of usefulness and high character, such as it has always sustained.

We were honored with an election to this Society several years ago, but have never attended any of its meetings, or known of one having taken place. While there is probably no rule of exclusion to any, we cannot doubt but its affairs are better managed by a few than they would be by a large number. It has done well in the past, and we have entire confidence in it for the future.

For the New England Farmer.

THE GOVERNOR'S NOTIONS OF AGRICULTURE.

Very properly, (as I think,) does the Governor place the interests of agriculture in the front rank in his message, not to be cut down by the enemy, but to be greeted by friends; for credit is given to the exertions of those who have so disinterestedly and effectively sustained our agricultural associations. All praise be to him, who by precept and example does justice to the industrious tiller of the soil, by whose efforts (next to the smiles of Heaven,) we "live, move and have our being." No complaint is made of the annual appropriation of $12,000 for the sustaining of these institutions—a mere pittance compared with the benefits to accrue.

His Excellency appears to have a just sense of the irregularities, in the present distribution of this bounty, but doubts whether the present organizations should be disturbed, at the same time clearly indicating that these inequalities should not be increased. What he means in speaking of town societies is not readily seen; but I presume he would not recommend an appropriation by the State, for the support of such societies. That they can be advantageously organized, we have no doubt; that they may be made useful auxiliaries to county societies, I believe is equally clear; but that it is not expedient to increase the number of societies (favored by bounty) beyond the number of counties, has ever been my deliberate opinion. ESSEX.

Jan. 12, 1859.

For the New England Farmer.

FLOWAGE OF LAND ON CONCORD RIVER.

The injuries sustained by meadow-owners on Concord River and its tributaries, together with the gross outrages perpetrated on them under forms of law in seeking redress, is a subject once more before the public mind. The report of the mass meeting of meadow-owners in Concord, December 27th, in the Boston *Journal*, also copied in the *Farmer*, presents something of a view of the nature of the case.

These meadow-owners have too patiently born their wrongs, as honest farmers not accustomed to litigation, and allowed one or two individuals to pursue the subject alone. But their growing injuries are awakening them to the necessity of action, and they are now banding together for a thorough investigation in view of an ultimate remedy. It is not a question of trifling moment. Not even an uninterested mind with a knowledge of the facts can call it such. It has sufficient *local* interest to entitle it to public consideration, regardless of the general principles involved, and the welfare of a large community. It is even connected with matters concerning every inhabitant of the State. Thousands of acres, much of which is more valuable than upland, rendered worthless to swell the coffers of a very few. This meadow land, owned by farmers, from five to thirty and forty acres each, is the main dependence of their profit in farming. It demands no expenses for cultivating or fertilizing, but yields its annual crop with only the cost of harvesting. And farmers have depended on it for their winter's supply of hay; its loss subjecting them to the necessity of buying hay, or keeping a less number of cattle; either of which methods detracts from their income.

But aside from pecuniary loss to farmers thus interested, another important and more general view of the subject regards it as the cause of deterioration of health. The miasma from standing water on the meadows, and the decomposition of so much vegetable matter, is a fruitfu. source of disease. It has been given to the world as grave advice, and I think through the *Farmer*, not to suffer vegetable matter to lie about, exposed to the atmosphere, to absorb its noxious qualities, because injurious to health. But if this advice should be deemed necessary on account of a few small quantities, how much more so when the air is tainted by thousands of tons of decaying matter lying on the banks of a river for miles, with dwellings within a short distance.

But it is argued by some in opposition that

those situations on the plains near the river are healthiest. This may be a fact; but it determines nothing against the principle. If they are healthiest, it is because the miasma rising into the air passes over the plains. But somebody gets it—those who live on the hills and highlands. Fogs will be seen settling on the hills. This may be the reason why some situations on the hills are so unhealthy, as some in this town are more so than other places; and thus by the miasma rising higher into the air, the injurious effects are more widely spread. For even a light wind, moving at the rate of twenty or thirty miles an hour, will carry the noxious effluvia over a broad extent of territory. Therefore the question is not altogether local, but concerns the inhabitants of distant parts of the State. The flowage of so much land in various parts of New England may be one cause of a decrease of health; for few things are more injurious than impure air—whether in doors or out.

Then, as flowage of land, not only in this case, but in others, is for the advantage of a few individuals to the injury of many, is it not the duty of every advocate of equality of rights to define the privileges of all according to strict justice? Will future legislators show the blindness of their predecessors to common rights and privileges, by further enactments, or remain silent regarding the present, favoring incorporated companies at the expense of general loss? Can an individual man, without money and without influence, boast of an independent government and equality of rights, if money and influence are weights in the scale of justice?

It is to be hoped that the agitation of this question will not cease, until justice shall have asserted its power in determining the rights and privileges of incorporated companies, and in sustaining the common rights of all.

L. H. SHERMAN.

Wayland, Mass., Jan., 1859.

For the New England Farmer.

AGRICULTURAL TRANSACTIONS AT PLYMOUTH COUNTY.

I always look at these with great interest, knowing the wisdom and experience that has directed them. I was particularly pleased to see in the publication for 1850, a compendious digest of the mode of growing Indian corn, in that region, by a gentleman who has probably given more attention to this matter than any other in the State. On looking it over, I do not find any essential difference in his rules, from what I had been taught from my youth. He would have the ground plowed six or seven inches deep, and dressed with about eight cords of manure to the acre. He would have the seed selected in the field—well-formed ears, that ripen the earliest; hills about three feet apart, and four stalks, the most vigorous, ultimately left in the hill. These will give a sufficiency of stalks to yield an abundant harvest—say eighty bushels to the acre. More than this may not be expected, without extra hoeing and manuring. For the manures about our barns and pig-sties he gives a preference, not rejecting entirely the new-fangled preparations, far-fetched and dear-bought. Such sound advice as this I respect, wherever found.

For the *equestrian spirit* manifested by this society I cannot say as much. Premiums for horses, in every possible form, and twice as much as for neat stock, are still proposed. This seems to indicate, a sort of bravado interest, as much as to say, we know what we are about, and will do as we please, let others say what they may against it. I do not run to horse, so much as do our friends at Plymouth, at Springfield, and at Worcester, and I think the time will come, when they will see the error of their ways. If they do not, I think their practices will be *a great damper* upon healthy agricultural improvement in the Commonwealth. ESSEX.

January, 1859.

For the New England Farmer.

ROOT CROPS.

MR. EDITOR:—As I am the only one of your correspondents, who does not think much of turnips as a crop to raise for stock and hogs, you will allow me to be heard oftener than you would if others took the same side. Your correspondents give me all sorts of advice, and recommend turnips for all kinds of stock. Gentlemen, I am much obliged to you, but I have tried them to my entire satisfaction, and reject them.

They raise them much cheaper than I ever did, but even at their tables of cost, I do not wish to buy. I would like to see a statement of the exact cost of raising a field, from the time the ground was plowed in the spring, till the last bushel was fed out, either in hours or dollars, not estimated, but kept from day to day. Your correspondent, Mr. Bassett, gives his statement, but I presume he will not say that $7 was the exact cost of raising his 103 bushels of turnips, but only the estimated cost, in his opinion.

He took sixteen rods, or one-tenth of an acre, and calls the manure $1,00. I do not know the worth of manure with him, but here at $5 a cord, and to those who buy it costs more, it would be about one-half an ox-cart full, or allowing that but half the goodness of the manure was spent, one cart full, or ten loads to the acre. To use his own language, "Would any sane man venture to put ten loads of manure to an acre of land for a root crop?"

He recommends me to read a communication signed "The Desponding Farmer." I do not think that would apply to me, as I both like farming, and think I find it profitable. I love the farm, the stock, the barn, the produce, and all that a good farm produces. I have had quite a number of farms thrown upon my hands, as guardian, executor and administrator, and in every instance, I have been able to show an income in dollars and cents, more than the interest of what the farm brought, over and above the carrying on, taxes, &c., and that without cutting wood or timber.

I agree with Mr. Bassett that the hog, properly cared for, is a very important consideration with regard to the corn crop, and all other crops. I believe that a hog, well cared for, will make extra corn on an acre enough to fat him.

But his last conclusion I do not believe in:—"That no turnips, no hogs." I have thirty of the hog kind, large and small, and I do not find

the least difficulty in making them grow without turnips or milk. I have killed three within a few weeks, from twelve to fifteen months old, that averaged over 350 pounds each, and I do not think they ever tasted milk, except from their mother, or turnips, and yet they cost me eight cents a pound. I admit that hogs, and all other stock, will do better on a variety of food. I use corn, rye, shorts, rice-meal, and such refuse potatoes, apples and other stuff I have, that will not sell or do to use in the family.

We have as good a set of farmers in Hollis as you can find in the State. They have drawn premiums for their farms, their nurseries, their crops, their teams, almost always where they have tried. They have almost all of them tried roots, and after a few years given them up, and I venture to say, that the gentleman that raised 2500 bushels this year will not raise 2500 bushels a year ten years from this time, or in 1868.

Our late townsman, William P. Saunderson, Esq., was as good a farmer as there was in the State. and for the last fifteen years has been in the milk business, where roots will tell, if any where. He went into the root crops largely, raising English turnips, ruta bagas, sugar beets, carrots, &c.; but after a careful trial of at least twelve years, he gave them all up. In appraising his estate, last week, not three bushels of roots, potatoes excepted, of all kinds, were found in his cellars. He has taken premiums for his farm, his nursery, and various kinds of produce, yet he gave up the root culture, and spent his labor, his manure and his best land to increase his corn, oats, wheat, apple and hay crops.

I do not believe that it will pay to boil potatoes, turnips, apples or any of the roots for stock or hogs, when wood is worth $4 or $5 per cord; but when it is not more than $1 or $2 a cord it may do. Nor will it do to compare our farming, where labor is so high, with the farming of England, Ireland or Scotland, where labor costs comparatively nothing, and where they cannot raise corn. If they could raise from 30 to 100 bushels of corn, in England, to the acre, you would not hear much of their turnip crop. People should raise what their climate is best calculated to raise to profit, as their great crops.

One man tells me he kept some young cattle through, on corn fodder, straw and turnips, and they came out well. I have kept my young cattle through, on corn fodder and meadow hay, for years, without the turnips, and they came out well. I prefer to use a part corn fodder for my oxen and cows, to all English hay, and they do better on it, and the cows give more milk.

Hollis, Dec. 25, 1858. E. EMERSON.

SCIENTIFIC CONCLUSIONS.

Scientific experiments, as well as theoretical hypothesis, have established the following positions. We believe they may be set down as agricultural truths:

Substances, rich in nitrogen, increase the verdure, lengthen the straw, and promote and prolong the growth of plants.

Lime generally shortens the period of growth, strengthens the stem and hastens the time of ripening of both corn and root crops.

Saline substances, applied alone, and even, comparatively in minute quantities, on some soils, produce a remarkable effect, on other soils but little.

While one substance, applied alone, produces little or no effect, a mixture of two or more may give rise to striking differences.

Phosphoric acid, lime, and some form of organic matter, are essential constituents of such a mixture as shall everywhere and under all circumstances produce a marked, beneficial effect on old, worn-out land.

Sulphuric acid has a beneficial effect on leguminous plants.

PRIZE ESSAY ON MANURES.

We have before us, and have perused with a lively interest, an *Essay on the Preparation and Application of Manures*, by Doct. JOSEPH REYNOLDS, of Concord, Mass. This essay was presented to the *Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture*, and received their highest prize of one hundred and fifty dollars.

The essay commences by stating that Salts, Gases, Acids and Water are all essentials, and then proposes the inquiry, *How many of these elements are necessary to constitute a manure?* The subject of *Liquid Manure* is also introduced, and ably treated. The author says—

The saving and use of liquid manures is deserving of more attention than it has yet received in this country. It is easy so to arrange the stalls of cattle, as to receive their urine into troughs under the floor, and to convey it into a cistern in the cellar, or outside of the barn. This may be pumped into a water-cart, to which a sprinkler is attached, similar to those used in watering the streets. If it is pumped in through a strainer, the sprinkler does not become clogged, and it may be rapidly conveyed to the field, and distributed as a top-dressing, upon grass or grain, with immediate effect. When the soil is not deficient in carbonaceous elements, there can probably be no better top-dressing applied. It is not as permanent in its effects as the solid excrement, but more immediate, and it may be applied twice a year upon grass, with less expense of labor than one dressing of solid manure. The cost of the necessary apparatus for saving and distributing it, is small. As a top-dressing for a field where turnips are to be grown, it is very excellent. As a top-dressing in the spring, or during the summer, for pasture lands, it is perhaps superior to any dressing that can be applied. If the undiluted urine is thought too strong, it may be easily diluted in the field, if water is at hand.

The *Application of Manures* has received considerable attention, and the writer has given many facts, and offered suggestions that will prove of high value to the attentive reader. He says—

One great necessity for applying manure in our climate, is, that plants may be forced more rapidly through all the stages of their growth, since if left to themselves, the season would not be long enough to bring them to perfection; and

that system of culture which pushes them forward early, that they may get well rooted, and therefore be the better able to endure the droughts of July and August, and thus arrive at early maturity, before the frosts of September, we think must be the best system. Could we add another month to the summer of our climate, we could cultivate many crops, with a much less amount of stimulants than we require at present. Now we have to guard against the droughts of summer, and the early frosts of autumn, and I do not esteem it safe practice, to deposit the manure for the corn so deep in the soil that the growing crops cannot reach it till late in the season. When stable manure or compost is plowed in deep, we would recommend the application of well diluted guano, ashes or fine compost in the hill. In this way, with a season at all favorable, the crop will rarely fail.

This essay is valuable, because in preparing it, the writer has had the advantage of a practical experience on the soil to blend with his chemical acquirements in the laboratory; and this varied knowledge has so tempered both as to give them a value which a mere theorist cannot impart to his productions.

THE DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS.

By ROBERT DEMCKER, Landscape Gardener in Cincinnati. Translated for the *Ohio Farmer*, by Dr. C. A. Hartman, from the German of the Cincinnati *Hochwæchter*.

The social life of the plants has recently given rise to many contemplations and experiments, the results of which are of the highest importance to the tiller of the soil, as well as to the horticulturist. We have learned, that the existence of a great many plants depends on their association in large masses, while others, small herbs and even shrubs, need the protection of their taller relation, the trees, under the shade of which the carbonic acid finds the necessary temperature for its decomposition, and proper assimilation by the smaller plants; for these the trees also prepare the humus wanted for their further nourishment, in the leaves and other parts falling off every year. Many social plants deprive the ground of certain inorganic ingredients, which are absorbed again and given back by other plants partly in their decomposition, partly in the secretions of their roots. All these plants live harmoniously together, supplying each other; the life of the one kind wholly depends upon the existence of the other. These facts have led to the alternation of crops, and have made agricultural chemistry one of the most important assistants on the farm and in the garden.

The large associations of high-growing woody plants, commonly called forests, are the generators and regulators of the vital air needed by the animals; they are also the fathers of the springs, attracting the rain and spreading it successively as well as proportionately over the ground where mosses, and other herbs, with densely arranged roots, detain the water so received for quite a long time, and retard its evaporation. The disappearing of the forest causes not only want of wood and water, a dry and poor vegetation, but usually promotes inundations. The falling rain then washes down unhindered the soil from hill and mountain. Moss, turf, shrubbery, and trees formerly took hold of the moisture, forming it into lively springs, and quiet brooks; now the water runs down unimpeded, breaking loose and carrying off the ground, spreading sands and stones all over the fields and meadows, swelling the rivers and inundating the surrounding country. In flat regions and closed valleys, where the forests are destroyed, the waters accumulate and form unhealthy swamps. Formerly the trees consumed, in these places, all superfluous fluidity, and the obnoxious gases arising from the stagnant waters. The Roman Campagna, for instance, once the well cultivated home of whole nations, where now the most pernicious fevers are raging, the dreaded malaria drives off in summer time the few inhabitants to the neighboring mountains, where in ancient times was the celebrated granary of Rome. This, and the present condition of Spain, Greece, a part of upper Italy and of the southern part of France, show in the most evident manner, the productiveness of soil and men is diminished by the destruction of the forest; islands like England may overcome to a certain degree the fatal consequences of such destruction.

The forest is the greatest benefactor of mankind; it is a necessity everywhere, and still it is everywhere more and more destroyed. Room is wanted for the fields and meadows; wood is wanted in great quantities; the forest has to furnish both, without regard to its own preservation; human wickedness and foolishness, political storms, and other causes, destroy inexorably those great means of national welfare and general blessing. All wise governments have comprehended long ago the utility of the forest, and have provided a regular protection and care for it. This regular management of the forest is, at present, preserving and culturing the few remaining mountain-forests in Germany, France, and Belgium, is producing new forests in deserted and swampy districts. Such a scientific and general care of the forest in this country is rather difficult, not to say impossible. The farmer destroys unconditionally, unscrupulously, not considering that he destroys with it the well-secured future welfare and the riches of the country. "Fields as well as lungs," says Bettzieck-Beta, (a German author,) "are here destroyed by consumption, produced by the reckless endeavoring to get rich in the shortest time possible"

Now we do not want to quarrel with the farmer for cutting down his trees, be it for the purpose of making money out of them, or to get more room for his agricultural propensities; we deem it his duty, however, to repair the damages inflicted by it as far as possible, and the much more so, as this can be done in a manner the most useful to himself. We will show how it may be accomplished, supposing a man is willing and persevering enough to try it.

Wherever the soil is easily washed away by rains, and the plow cannot be employed, extensive orchards with high-growing trees ought to be planted, and the ground covered with mixed grasses, adapted to its special character. In a few years the fruit trees will protect the soil against drying up too quickly, the grass also retaining the humidity for the trees. All expenses will be paid a hundredfold in a short time. These

orchards can never replace the forest completely; they are, however, important and profitable means to diminish the fatal consequences of the disappearing forest. Apples, pears, cherries, peaches, peccan-nuts, Italian or Spanish chestnuts, are particularly adapted to such a plantation. Ditches, swampy flats, and similar localities, may be covered with Lombardian hazlenuts, and all places not accessible to cattle can be surrounded by fences of quince trees.

All farmers are respectfully requested to examine these propositions, and to act in accordance with them. Whoever feels interested in the welfare of his contemporaries and their descendants, will do well in setting an example to his neighbors.

A SCOTCH LOVE SONG.

[FROM THE GREENWICH AND WICKFORD PENDULUM.]

They told me thou wert false, Jamie,
And did na care for me;
I heeded not their voice, Jamie,
I thought it could not be,
So loving were thy words, Jamie,
So winsome was thy smile;
I did na think that *it*, Jamie,
Could veil one thought of guile.

Dost thou recall the hawthorn glade
Where we sat side by side,
When, on a summer's night, Jamie,
Thou sued me for thy bride?
My heart was very full, Jamie,
As in the pale moonshine,
I promised to be thine, Jamie,
To be forever thine.

Together there we knelt, Jamie,
The bent and reverent knee,
And prayed our Heavenly Father's love
Might rest on thee and me.
So radiant seemed my path, Jamie,
My cup so full of bliss,
How could I e'er dream, Jamie,
That it would come to this?

I never see thee now, Jamie—
Thou comest not to me:
'Tis said thou seek's another's love
Ah, Jamie, can it be?
They tell me she is rich, Jamie,
And of a lordly line,
Not thrice her wealth and rank, Jamie,
Could buy a love like mine.

My cheek that ernt was red, Jamie,
Is palin' day by day;
I felt it in my heart, Jamie,
I'm wearin' fast away.
Then, Jamie, when the Summer comes,
And blossoms clothe the tree,
Bestow one loving thought on her
Who died for love of thee. E. A.

Rose Insects.—If our lady readers are desirous of keeping their rose-bushes free from the small green vermin that so frequently infest them, the following remedy will be found a most effectual one: To three gallons of water, add one peck of soot and one quart of unslacked lime. Stir it well—let it stand for twenty-four hours, and when the soot rises to the surface, skim it off. Use a syringe for applying it.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES BY THE STATE.

About $12,000 is annually drawn from the Treasury for this purpose, and distributed to about twenty sccieties—no single society receiving more than $600. So far this is well, and as it should be. I have noticed some complaint of there being more societies in some counties than in others. If this be an error, it was an oversight in the Legislature in making the grants, more than in the societies who received them. Such irregularities will hereafter be guarded against. It was a condition of such grants from the State, that the society should have raised their funds and invested them on interest before they would be entitled to favor from the Stte. How those societies who have laid out all their money in land and buildings—from which no interest or income accrues, or can be expected to accrue,—can entitle themselves to a share of the bounty of the State, is beyond my power to imagine. I think it must be by a hocus-pocus such as is said to be in use occasionally at Uncle Sam's custom-houses. I think if gentlemen so upright as the Governor and Treasurer should chance to run upon any such management, they would hesitate a while before they would suffer the money to be drawn. If they do not, they will ere long find the stool on which they themselves stand to be in a tottling condition. Inquirer.

Jan. 1, 1859.

COTTON SEED MEAL.

I notice in the April number of the *Farmer* that you speak favorably of cotton seed meal for milch cows. Does your experience since that time confirm the opinion you then expressed? I have fed it to cows and calves to a limited extent, and have not noticed any injurious effects. But I have recently heard opinions expressed unfavorable to its use, by those who have fed it to a large number of cows. Indeed, the objections to it were very strong, principally, I believe, in consequence of its effects upon the physical condition of the cows.

I should like to hear from yourself and others who have made trial of this meal. Analysis shows it to be richer than linseed meal, and I suppose it can be bought for a less price. B.

Remarks.—We have used a ton or two of cotton seed meal, and we have thought with good results—though we were not able to make a comparison of it with other grains, in feeding it out, in consequence of frequent absence from home. But from what observation we were able to make, and the report of the man who tended the stock, we were favorably impressed with it as a feed for milch cows.

We shall be glad to hear from others on the subject.

A NEW DISCOVERY.

It is stated that a gentleman of Fitchburg, Mass., has discovered the cause of the potato rot to be a "general poisoning or corruption of the surface soil." As a remedy, he proposes to

bring the subsoil to the surface, in sufficient quantities to avoid the use of the surface soil, in the growing of the plants; just as though the same causes that diffused the poison over the surface, had not spread it in the subsoil also. I should as soon think of prescribing "the taking off the skin of a man" for the cure of the itch, or any eruption apparent on the surface. So prone are men, when they get hold of an idea, to run it until it merges in absurdity. *.

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BUTTER IN WINTER.

I often see directions how to make good butter in your valuable journal. In making butter, I find many obstacles; my cow has been fed on carrots for several weeks; since that time we have churned several hours (with the cream at 62) without making the butter come. Do you suppose the carrots have a tendency to prevent it? If so, is there any way to avoid it? Can the cream be churned again by any process?

Jan. 11, 1859. A SUSCRIBER.

REMARKS.—We believe the carrots would have a tendency to produce good butter, and not to retard in any way its coming. If you have churned a *day or two* on your cream, you had better appropriate it to some other purpose than the making of butter.

The first thing essential in making good butter in winter, is to get good milk, and then if the milk is set in some place, cellar or closet, where the temperature will remain at 60° Fahrenheit, cream will rise abundantly, and the butter will come in ten minutes after commencing churning the cream. Some persons scald the milk when it comes to the house—but that is not so essential as an even temperature at 60° for the milk to stand in. We are making 20 lbs. per week without the slightest difficulty.

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MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

With the mercury 8° below zero, I have just examined the pages of Mr. Secretary Fay's publication in explanation of the doings of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture. Although the predominating influence of *wealth* is apparent on every page of this Society's history, still there is sufficient of good developed to make the whole worthy of commendation. For myself, I do not think a man any the better or worse, for being born a *millionare*, or chancing to have married a wife that is one; still it must be admitted, that there are some things that such persons can do, that others cannot do. I rejoice that this publication is made, because I think it will put down that ambitious spirit, that appeared in 1857, and is again beginning to show itself on the banks of the Connecticut. Every person who reads this handsome volume of 150 pages, will be satisfied that those who have managed the concerns of this society have had a high and honorable purpose, of doing the best they could to advance the best interests of the farmers of the State. If other associations would proceed with a single eye to the general good as they have, and not allow themselves to be swerved from the path of propriety, they would leave a record that would shine brighter and brighter, unto the perfect day.

January, 10, 1859. ESSEX.

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FRUIT TREES—EFFECT OF GRAFTING.

MR. EDITOR:—Fruit trees, and their cultivation, is a subject which I feel particularly interested in, and though my observations of these are home observations, and consequently quite limited, yet if they can be of use to any one, I am willing they should be further published in your valuable paper.

That each tree has a condition of life peculiar to itself, long, short, or intermediate, few persons, if any, will deny, but that there is a transfer of such condition by grafting, old age not excepted, few realize, and yet this is true, I believe, entirely true, and that I can substantiate it. But, says one, "If this be true, why then a large proportion of our fruit tree interests are of no account, for they have been grafted from old trees!" Well, this is even so, and were I to make a comparison of the thing, I should say that animal life can as well be re-instated by the sustenance which has established and perfected it, manhood, if you please, as that a fruit tree can flourish any considerable length of time, when grafted from an old one, and the reasons are just as obvious. The truth is, that the life principle, the tree life principle has been shortened in, and in, until nothing comparatively remains of it, and now we are suffering from such practices.

Walpole, N. H., 1859. W. T. BLANCHARD.

—

CLAPBOARD OR BATTEN BARNS.

A "Subscriber" wishes to know if he shall use clapboards or battens. My experience for quite a number of years is, to use neither for ordinary barns. My practice is, to use half-inch lining boards, and then board with straight-edged boards one inch thick, taking care to make them break joints with the lining. It has this advantage over battens, that, with a less number of girts to nail to, wind and storm is perfectly excluded, it being understood that the boards and linings are well-seasoned before they are used. I find by experience, that hay can be put into a tight barn much greener, and it will keep much better, than it will in a loose boarded barn; the stock will eat less hay, and look better, and do better, and they are better everyway, if it be properly ventilated, than they possibly can be in the old-fashioned loose boarded barn. If you do not believe, come and see. D. D. POWERS.

Pittsfield, Mass., Jan. 10, 1859.

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WEATHER AND CROPS IN MAINE.

We are having pleasant weather and fine sleighing. December was a pleasant month. The ground froze up rather early, so that most farmers did not do up their plowing. Corn and other grain did well, excepting wheat, of which there is not much sown about here. Potatoes turned out well, and not so many rotted as usual. Hay is rather high, twelve dollars a ton, and stock cheap. As a general thing, farmers here keep more stock than hay, so hay is kept high, and cattle poor—a poor policy, I think. There are

a good many such farmers that will sell their hay, and cheat their cattle, and soil, for the sake of a few dollars, for the present time. G. D. S.

West Danville, Me., 1859.

—

INJURED HORSES.

To "Taunton"—I have known a horse to receive a very severe cut from kicking against the plate that attaches the whiffletree to the crossbar, severing the cord so that it protruded from the wound, to recover, so as to perform carriage and farm work without inconvenience. Three-fourths of an inch was cut off, and it was then placed back, and, as is well known in surgery, the interstice filled and restored the ankle to nearly its former strength and flexibility. V. C. G.

Nashua, 1859.

REMARKS.—We are glad to hear it. The one or two horses we have seen thus injured, were utterly ruined.

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FLOORS IN HORSE STALLS.

"W. D. L." is informed that it is customary to build horse stalls with inclined floors, but they are usually inclined more than is necessary to secure the object—cleanliness, particularly in sale-stables, as it makes a horse look larger to have his forward feet elevated three or four inches, but it is very objectionable for a horse that stands much in the stall. One-half inch to the yard is amply sufficient.

It is a very good way to construct the floor of two thicknesses of inch boards instead of one of plank, matching the under layer, and placing the upper boards about three-eighths of an inch apart, using boards about six inches wide, It economises the bedding twenty-five per cent.

Nashua, N. H., 1859. V. C. G.

—

DANVERS RED POTATOES.

Mr. William Hanson, of Barre, Vt., raised the past season, 505 bushels of Danvers red potatoes on 1½ acres; also 725 bushels of oats on 13 acres (10 acres greensward.) L. H. THURBER.

Washington, Vt., 1859.

—

DUCHESSE D'ANGOULEME PEARS.

J. H. JONES, Esq., Clinton, Illinois, writes us that he raised the above named variety of pear last season that weighed from 12 to 17 ounces each.

Should like the volume mentioned, if it can be sent free of cost.

—

BUNCH ON A HORSE'S LEG.

Can you or your readers tell me the cause of a bunch on a horse's forward leg, below the knee on the inside; I think it is called a *splint*; and if it can be taken off, or if it hurts a horse? The bunch is as hard as bone. A SUBSCRIBER.

Millbury, Mass., Jan., 1859.

—

A MORRILL COLT.

Mr. PERLEY ROBERTS, of Washington, Vt., has a Morrill colt, foaled June 13th, 1857, which weighed, Dec. 29th, 1858, 947½ pounds. He had no extra keeping.

For the New England Farmer.

ROOFING MATERIALS.

DEAR SIR:—When I answered your questions about roofing materials through your paper, I did not expect to arouse the wrath of all the proprietors of unmentioned small quarries in Vermont, nor did I wish to involve myself in a newspaper controversy, nor did I suppose I should be purposely misrepresented.

I did not say that slates must fade to be as good as the Welsh, but that all the strong and best Vermont slates do fade upon continued exposure to the weather, whilst all which do not fade are soft and of little value for roofing, however well they may be adapted to slabs, &c. The fact is unquestionable, and may be proved by any one who will trouble himself to try the experiment of wetting a slate which soaks water, and exposing it to the action of frost. The same power which will break your pitcher when full of water, by freezing the water, will in a few seasons' exposure, disintegrate the slate.

My object in writing you was to convey desirable information to those of your readers who may have buildings to cover, and to facilitate their researches; after giving the merits of slate for a roof, I gave tests of value. These tests are admitted by the best authorities to be of absolute importance, and properly applied, will satisfy any experimenter.

For power of resistance to frost and consequent power to resist disintegration, the quantity of water a slate will absorb in a given time, the one absorbing the most is the poorest.

For strength, elasticity, toughness and long resistance to strain when laid on the roof, or to concussion of hail, of falling stones, bricks, or the tread of persons moving over the roof, the weight a given slate will bear without breaking when supported by its extremeties and loaded in the middle.

These two points settled for or against any different specimens of slate, that one will be best for general use which is equal to or better than all others in strength, &c., and in inability to soak water, and which splits with the greatest uniformity and smoothness, and yields the largests number of squares to the ton.

I am aware that slates according to their size should be thicker or thinner, and that some absolute thickness is proper for each size, but the least increase over this proper thickness, is a loss to the purchaser, in the strain of unnecessary weight upon the roof, in the extra freight paid for that increased and useless weight; and is a loss to the producer in waste of stock. I mentioned the Glen Lake and Eagle as the best Vermont slates, because the Glen Lake first and Eagle next, are uniformly best in all these three qualities. The Eagle is necessarily thickest for the character of the stone, and is thicker than use requires.

The Forest slate I know very well; it is an excellent slate, as are many others, but when submitted to the water test, it will be found to soak more water than they. I have seen the experiment carefully tried by disinterested persons, and it always soaked most water of the three.

The Farnham quarries of mottled slate I know very well. The writer who describes them says,

at start, that they are soft. Soft slates, unless greasy and naturally rotten, *always soak more water than harder varieties*, and fail in the first test. The soft slate is like soft wood or any other soft material, unless pliable, like wrought iron or copper, or other metals, is less able to bear a strain and weight than hard kinds of the same material; and in the case of this slate the following fact bears me out.

A large number of squares of the mottled slate were piled last spring at the Fairhaven depot, and were sold this summer to some slaters, who before they could use their purchase, were obliged to pick them all over, and in many cases recut (or dress) the slates; and there was, two months ago, at that depot, at least one-eighth of the whole quantity culled and thrown aside as waste. The mottled color he speaks of so enthusiastically is the worst feature about them. It is bad enough for all our slates that they change a little in color when exposed to the sun for a time, but when laid they are uniform in color, and become nearly uniform after the fading is over; but these mottled slate look like a pie-bald horse, at first; a roof laid with them is a real curiosity for one accustomed to observe color, its effect is like a face spotted with small-pox or mottled with the eruptions of scarlet fever; it is neither one thing nor another. This slate, like many others, will find its largest and true use as slabs for marbleizing, for tiles, &c.

But to close all I have to say upon the subject of slate, I would propose that all the slate manufacturers hold a meeting at a convenient place, and select a committee of three careful and scientific chemists and engineers, who shall visit the various quarries, obtain fair samples of the slate, both slabs and slate ready for the roof, which they shall submit to the most severe tests in order to establish their value for the various uses to which slate may be put; let this committee report progress through your paper from time to time, and finally publish in it the result of their labor.

If a careful investigation were made at once, a conclusion satisfactory to all parties could be arrived at before the spring sales commence, and all might purchase intelligently.

This is the practice in England. Every new slate is tested by competent persons, and their opinions published, so that no one need buy a poor article for a good one. The uses for slate are many, and some kinds not good for one purpose are pre-eminently good for others; let this be known to the public.

I have proposed this plan to the proprietors of the Glen Lake quarries, and they express great readiness to enter into such an inquiry, and are ready to subscribe liberally towards it, or to pay their share of the cost; this seems to me very fair, and I hope the plan may be adopted by all quarry owners. RUSTICUS.

A FAT FISH.—The siskawit, a fish of Lake Superior, is reported to be the fattest fish that swims, either in fresh or salt water. The fishermen say that one of these fish, when hung by the tail in the hot sun of a summer's day, will melt, and entirely disappear, except the bones. In packing about fifty barrels, a few seasons ago at Isle Royale, one of the fishermen made two and a half barrels of oil from the heads and leaf fat alone, without the least injury to the marketableness of the fish. Besides this leaf fat, the fat or oil is disseminated in a layer of fat and a layer of lean throughout the fish. They are too fat to be eaten fresh, and are put up for market like the lake white fish and Mackinaw trout.

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

A quarterly meeting of the *State Board of Agriculture* was held at the State House on Tuesday, Jan. 18. Gov. BANKS, Lt. Gov. TRASK, and nearly every member of the Board, were present. His Honor the Lieut. Governor in the chair.

The management of the State Farm at Westboro', during the last year, has been in the care of a Superintending Committee of eight persons, and the report of this committee, and its consideration, was the first business in order.

The report gives in detail the operations of the committee in regard to the stock, crops, methods of seeding and cultivating, reclaiming, trenching, laying down lands, draining, and all other matters that have engaged their attention. As an illustration of their mode of proceeding we cite an experiment in *seeding land to oats*. They had six acres to seed with oats—they were all sown broadcast, April 27 and 28, and harrowed in as follows. No. 1 received *five* bushels per acre; No. 2 received *four* bushels; No. 3 *three* bushels; and No. 4 at the rate of *two* bushels. The lots were manured with 100 lbs. of plaster per acre, spread broadcast and harrowed in, with the exception of a strip of one acre *running across the several lots*, which received no plaster. The oats were harvested July 28, and threshed Sept. 2d and 3d. The yield of lot No. 1 was 42 bushels; that of No. 2, was 35½; that of No 3. was 40, and that of No. 4 was 26½ bushels. The acre that received no plaster yielded 20½ bushels, the grain weighing 28 lbs. to the bushel, and being much the same on all the lots except on No. 1, on which both the grain and straw were much the lightest.

The results of this carefully conducted experiment would seem to settle the question pretty conclusively, that *three* bushels of oats is the amount most profitable to be used for seeding an acre of land that is in fair condition. This committee reported as much in detail upon all the other crops of the farm.

The committee close their report by saying, that the aggregate amount for permanent improvements during the past five years has been no less than $13,727 58, while the aggregate amount for boys' labor was $9,437 75. The value of personal property is $4,804 36 greater than when the Board first took charge of the farm; or, in other words, the Board leave that amount of personal property belonging to the State over and above

the aggregate amount received from the Trustees in 1854.

The sum spent for permanent improvements, for the labor of the boys—for implements, stock, &c., amounts, during the five years, to $32,423-17. The aggregate amount received from the Commonwealth during the same period, including the value of the inventory received from the Trustees in 1854, was $29,081,00, showing a balance of $3,342 17, which the farm returns to the State more than the whole amount received.

SECOND DAY.

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 1859.

The Hon. MARSHALL P. WILDER was called to the chair.

In consequence of the Board having decided at a previous meeting no longer to conduct the affairs of the farm, a committee was appointed to report a plan of business for the year, and they reported that the Board be subdivided into committees, each of whom should investigate a special subject, and report to the full Board, annually, in January, the result of their investigations. This report was adopted.

Under a resolve of the legislature of 1857, the Board of Agriculture was authorized to "*investigate the various methods of arresting the disease of the potato,*" proposed by certain applicants for the premium of ten thousand dollars offered by the legislature of 1851. The Board committed this subject to a committee of three persons, who reported that some fifty applications had been presented to the Executive from time to time, but that only about twenty out of this number could be found and placed in their hands. These were carefully considered, and so far as was practicable, the methods proposed of arresting the disease were tried at the State Farm, and all failed—they, therefore, reported, that in their judgment no person is entitled to receive the premium. This report was accepted by the Board, and its Secretary was directed to communicate these facts to the legislature now in session.

Reports were next made by delegates who visited the various county societies, and judging from these alone, the conclusion must be, that they have all reached a remarkable degree of perfection. We cannot believe that the management of these Societies has been such that they are susceptible of no improvement, or that there have not been innovations introduced not contemplated by the legislature, or justified by a sound discrimination, and we regret that these reports have not spoken plainly and forcibly upon any departure by any society from the plain *intentions of the legislature.*

Before the sitting closed, these reports were pretty thoroughly discussed and criticised, and some of the innovations introduced into the county societies plainly pointed out,—especially that of occupying so much time in racing, trotting, or pacing horses for money, in direct contradiction to both letter and spirit of the statute of the Commonwealth. It was stated that no society could plead that it did not offer money itself, for it was liable for whatever was done by its consent on its grounds. Other violations of the statute were also pointed out.

THIRD DAY.

Thursday, Jan. 20, 1859.

The report of the special committee to propose a plan of operations for the ensuing year was considered in committee of the whole, and a wide range of subjects was proposed from which to select such as should be referred to sub-committees for their investigation.

The Board probably continued its settings through one or two more days, but an engagement out of the State deprived us of the pleasure of remaining with it. Its concluding business we must give at another time.

THE WIND.

A truly mysterious agent is the wind, viewless itself, yet having an eye withal toward which if one finds himself moving he will be sure to feel its force if he does not see its form. It is strong-armed also, beating down opposition with relentless strength. Its voice is terrible sometimes, and sometimes softer than a flute. Now it has the plaint of an æolian harp; then life-like whistles loud and clear. It sobs among the pine cones, rustles in chestnut's summer leaves, and rattles in the bare branches and falling foliage of the autumn. Almost noiselessly does this invisible tenant of the space above us seem to creep, though in fact unseen, along the waving grass and corn, which bend in reverence as it passes.

The wind has been said already to have an eye. It has breath, too, now smiling in the sirocco or simoon, now cutting down men with the norther and prostrating in the hurricane. Generally it may be inferred that it possesses a good character. The common saying that it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good, implies that usually it is a good creature enough. It blows our vessels to pieces sometimes, indeed, but then, how many more does it blow, with their rich freight of men and merchandise, across the oceans? Winds derive their character, as men do, from the country of their origin. Those from the land of boreas are apt to be savage in their attacks as the white bears of the pole, while those from the tropics softly kiss our cheeks and woo us to repose.

It makes itself useful in a thousand ways, one of which is turning mills and powerfully helping all sorts of manufacture. As an entertainer it is unrivalled. How sublimely it brings up the thunder-shower; how beautifully it floats along the sky, the billowy cloud. It causes the hail or rain drop to patter against the window; and, if

you are a good-for-nothing sloven or slattern in your house-keeping, it will drive the snow or water through the broken pane or dilapidated roof. While fishing in the lake or lying under a shady tree upon its banks, the wind is ever ready to amuse one. Now it stirs to myriads of ripples, running after one another over its surface, and now it fans the lounger with the big branches of the chestnut above his head.

It is not always, however, that it appears as master of the revels. In the character of avenger it now and then rushes upon the stage and makes its audience tremble. Wide forests are instantly laid low by its irresistible yet viewless arm; dwellings torn asunder and crushed beneath its weight; men and animals are lifted up and whirled about like snow-flakes in a winter's storm. So it is on the land.

At sea its power is terrific. The ocean is lashed into rolling mountains. Earth and the heavens meet and mingle together in night and chaos. The elementa put forth their voices, but above all their horrible thunder the wind rides triumphant, and utters its trumpet summons to the universal uproar of battle. It rages, it screams, it shrieks. Over all other sounds the blast of the invisible is heard; and that power which is the cause of the boiling of the deep, the agony of the cracking ship, yet is itself forever unseen. —*Newark Daily Advertiser.*

For the New England Farmer.

FEMALE EDUCATION.*

BY WILSON FLAGG.

Thus far the education of young men has been the principal theme of discourse, but the intellectual improvement of the other sex must not be disregarded. The interest and happiness of the female sex are not to be overlooked in our schemes for advancing any department of business. Welfare must not be sacrificed to wealth, if the two are incompatible; and it is better that the farmer's crops should suffer, than the members of his household. But the two things are aids to one another, and the generality of pleasant, rural homes are connected with well-cultivated farms, and he who pursues a liberal and progressive system of agriculture is commonly the generous father of a happy family. No man, however, is likely to be a successful farmer, if his wife or housekeeper be not well-instructed in all that concerns domestic economy. Yet the aim of our endeavors is not the training of young women to be patient drudges, who are destined to be farmers' wives. It is sufficient for their practical education, that they gain, with habits of neatness and industry, a good knowledge of housewifery and the arts of the dairy. But something must be added to these qualifications, to make them intelligent mothers and valuable members of society, as something must be added to the farmer's practical knowledge, to render him a useful and respectable citizen.

It is a matter of common observation that farmers' daughters, in Massachusetts, have generally received a better literary education than farmers' sons; and some of them are accomplished female scholars, whose brothers are very deficient in knowledge. The daughters, perceiving the necessity of preparing themselves for some employment away from home, have chosen, in numerous instances, to be educated for teaching a school, while their brothers have let themselves as journeymen, to other farmers, or have learned a mechanical art. We have never yet observed, however, that these young women were unfitted, by their literary acquirements, to be good housekeepers; but we have known many of the young men, who, on account of their ignorance, were miserable farmers.

Useful knowledge does not foster a silly pride; and though studious habits may partially incapacitate one for labor, they do not beget idleness or negligence. These are often the affectations of one who has the vanity to imitate the supposed eccentricities of genius; and they are commonly observed in those who are wanting in native good sense—that intellectual jewel, which is as rare as genius, and infinitely more valuable. Some of the best housekeepers we have ever known, surpassed all their neighbors in mental cultivation, and compensated for their want of physical strength by their superior management. On the other hand, a farmer's daughter is often disqualified for the performance of duties devolving upon a farmer's wife, by practising some manual art that leads her into the city, or by employment in a factory. We are also persuaded that a young man is more likely to acquire a distaste for farming, by serving four years in a dry goods store, than by studying four years at college. It is at the footstool of science that one learns to venerate the plow, while trade too often generates a taste only for the frivolities of town life.

No evil, we think, is likely to arise from educating farmers' girls to the highest point that is compatible with their attainment of practical information. And it may be remarked, that as the employments of women in this country are chiefly within doors, there is less necessity that they should possess that robust vigor, which is required by the labors of the other sex. The evil that arises from the influence of study and other sedentary occupations upon the physical constitution, is more compatible with feminine than with masculine occupations. It is also well known that the strongest women are not the best housewives, nor the strongest men the best farmers. Good health and a symmetrical development of the form, are of more value, in the present state of society, than mere muscular strength. The public are prone to consider these two qualities as identical; nothing is more common, however, than to find stout, muscular people who are predisposed to certain diseases, from which those of a more slender habit are free. Even pulmonary consumption is not confined to persons of inferior muscular power; though it will not be denied, that health and strength are to a certain extent mutually dependent, and that the physical powers must be cultivated by exercise, or the health will decline. It is more important, however, to preserve the soundness of the brain and the vital organs, by good air, generous living,

* This Essay on Female Education is the Supplement to the author's "Prize Essay on Agricultural Education," but was omitted by the Trustees in their publications. It is now published for the first time.

temperance and cheerfulness, than to strengthen the muscles by labor or gymnastics.

A certain amount of physical delicacy in a woman is pleasing to the other sex, especially to those who are educated and refined. Hence, in proportion as farmers are intellectually informed, will they demand in their wives an amount of delicacy of person, which may be incompatible with their ability to perform the laborious tasks which have usually devolved upon the mistress of a working-man's family. This is a matter for serious consideration. If our farmers' wives were to become, on the average, as feeble as those individuals of the sex who have never been accustomed to any kind of labor, we should be exposed to national degeneracy. Yet it cannot be denied that the direct tendency of improving the social condition of any class is to diminish their physical power, though they may be improved in health and symmetrical development. It is important, therefore, to determine whether the amount of general health may not be increased, by certain improvements in our social habits, so as to compensate for this infirmity in animal strength.

We are disposed to look upon the subject with favorable hopes, when we consider that as society relinquishes the laborious habits which were necessary at an earlier period, it adopts the more prudent and healthful customs of a better civilization. For centuries past the grand causes of disease have been excessive hardship and imperfect sustenance among the lower classes, causing the destruction of the individual; and indolence and luxury among the higher classes, causing a degeneracy of the race. Intemperate drinking, at the same time, has prevailed among all classes, and produced more disease than all other causes. As civilization advances, these sources of disease are diminished, because the most of our vices, especially that of drunkenness, originated in the customs of a barbarous age, and are lessened as we improve in knowledge. At the present time, intemperance is most prevalent among the rude and ignorant, notwithstanding the fact that the higher classes are not entirely free from it. The tendency of a higher civilization, therefore, is to ameliorate disease, no less than to improve the muscular strength. As the refinements of life are multiplied, the injurious vices are diminished, and man improves in health, in symmetry of development, in intellectual power, and as the best statistical tables show, in longevity, while he degenerates from the hardy vigor of his ancestors.

We speak of these matters in this connection, because women are more liable than men, to suffer from the want of those exercises that strengthen and invigorate the frame. If the sex, however, are led to the adoption of habits, by which they avoid the causes of disease; if they strengthen the vital organs by exercises which are yet insufficient to produce great muscular power, we need not be fearful of the general consequences. The farmer, with the aid of improved agricultural machinery, is not obliged to toil so severely as his more hardy predecessors, to obtain an equal amount of profit. The female members of the farmer's house enjoy similar advantages, compared with those of earlier times; and with less animal power, are able to accomplish superior results. While we would carefully guard every class of the community, especially the rural class, from all effeminating habits, we are willing to admit that there is no danger of real degeneracy, while the general health of a class is improving; especially, if there be a gradual gain of intellectual power and longevity.

Volumes of cant have been written and spoken on almost every subject, and cant has been freely used in discussing upon female education. Too much praise has been bestowed upon mere "smart women," as if women were horses, and were to be esteemed in proportion as they are able to perform an extraordinary amount of brute labor. A young farmer who marries one of these smart women, is regarded as peculiarly fortunate, because he is thereby saved the expense of some hired help. Her intellect is not taken into the account. We might, with equal reason, congratulate the wife of a man who can perform the labor of an ox, because the family is thereby saved the expense of an additional farm-laborer, though all his neighbors, by expending more intellect on their farms, are more thrifty than he. We cannot set too high a value on capacity for labor, when it is united with intellect; but we do not always consider that unintelligent labor cannot avail much, except in a menial or subordinate situation.

In reviewing the housekeeping qualifications of our female acquaintances, several instances will probably occur to almost every one's recollection, of women of feeble frame, who have performed the duties of a farmer's household with admirable success. She who perfectly understands the way in which every thing ought to be done, can always find hands for the work. There is light work enough in the house to keep one's feeble hands always diligently employed, while the head is directing the tasks of others.

Our aim in making these remarks is not to discourage any rational attempts to preserve that hardy vigor, which, if not absolutely essential to health, is still a great blessing to either sex. But we would discourage that vulgar contempt for the refinements of life, which we observe in many places, and the notion that if a young woman is well-educated and refined in her taste, she cannot be fit for a farmer's wife. It is true, that such a woman would demand more intellect than one with less culture would require in a husband; and this very circumstance is calculated to elevate the farmer's occupation, by imposing upon those who follow it the necessity of more intellectual culture, to be acceptable to the fair sex. Such a woman would also demand more education for her children, and thus in a great variety of ways would her influence tend to advance the respectability of farming and of farmers. The refinements of life are too commonly classed in the same category with the vanities of fashion; but there is this remarkable difference between them, that while fashion is idolized by all the vulgar, the refinements of life are found only in families of superior cultivation.

Let our farmers' daughters, therefore, be well-educated, to save them from the love of vulgar amusements and extravagance, from bigotry and frivolity, and to make them effectual aids in advancing the interests of agriculture, by their influence over the other sex. Let us endeavor to

dispel those barbarous notions, that all the education a farmer's wife should possess, must be confined to the dairy and the kitchen; that woman was created but to be a servant to man, and to administer to the physical wants of his family. When we meet with a woman of superior education, we find one who is attached to rural life, and who, if she were married to a farmer, would administer his affairs in the most acceptable manner. She would also render his house agreeable by her conversation and her good sense, and by enlisting his sympathy with her own love of nature, make him more contented and happy, when employed at home or in the field.

Another important consideration is the power that is placed in the hands of an intelligent mother, to afford her children a superior domestic education. A mother enjoys more opportunities than the father for exercising influence upon the children. It might be allowed, therefore, that we should first educate the daughters, rather than the sons of farmers, even if the interest of the latter were the only object of our concern. A mother, who is capable of instructing her children, seldom fails to exercise her capacity for their benefit; but the same cannot be so generally said of fathers. We have no doubt that the talents of the father as often descend to the offspring as those of the mother, though a contrary notion prevails; but it will be admitted by all, that the mother's ignorance and the mother's education are more generally transmitted to the offspring than those of the father.

But it is not the literary education of young women of the rural classes that should be only regarded. Inducements should be offered to them to make themselves acquainted with the theory of agriculture. The knowledge of the intelligent and believing wife might often convert the ignorant and unbelieving husband to faith in new improvements, and induce him to learn and to be progressive. Her instructions to the children, if she could not influence her husband, might redeem them from the bondage of ignorance, and lead them to improve upon their father's practice. The farmer's wife should be well acquainted with the farm and its wants; she should have sufficient practical knowledge of agriculture, to be able, if it were necessary, to superintend the exercises of the farm. A woman does not unsex herself by extraordinary acquisitions of knowledge; but rather by assuming the masculine manners and habits of the other sex.

In the preparation and distribution of tracts, the educational wants of the female sex must not be overlooked. There are some studies and exercises that are supposed to be peculiarly adapted to female taste and genius. This is said of botany, which certainly enjoys more favor among young women; and perhaps it is only through their influence, that young men could be induced to give any general attention to it. But it is needless to dwell any longer upon the share which woman may have in imparting a taste for the study of nature, and for the refinements of life, to the other sex. We may remark, in conclusion, that if we would improve farmers and farmers' sons, in taste and in the amenities of society, they must receive their culture through the female sex; but all practical knowledge and tact must proceed from their formal experience and observation.

For the New England Farmer.

FARMERS, LOVE YOUR CALLING, AND MAKE YOUR HOMES PLEASANT.

MR. EDITOR:—Probably mine is a hackneyed subject, but as it seems important, it may be well to "keep it before the people."

When we look around over many farms of our land, and observe the absence of improvements, the indifference paid to making things convenient about them, and the absence of shrubbery, and shade trees, and sundry fixings about the house to beautify and give an idea of a "pleasant home," we see that some do not appreciate the beauties of landscapes, trees and flowers, or are disposed to make the most of the things around them in life, so far as rural enjoyment is concerned. But some may say that common farmers having nothing but their farms, which may be small, cannot afford to spend large sums of money like the rich, in beautifying their grounds; true, yet it costs but little to set out a few shade trees, and shrubbery, in a tasty manner, and to have the rose, the dahlia and the peony to blossom in the yard. I am aware that many live on farms not their own, and so cannot be expected to make those improvements that they would on farms of their own. But some hire farms when they may be the proprietors of small estates, merely because they may get better returns from the banks than they could from farms, perhaps, and so live on, farming for gain without being in love with their calling, and ignorant of the superior enjoyments of those intelligent farmers who live on their own acres, and take pleasure in endeavoring to improve their farms, and in rendering their homes pleasant and happy places, and fit abodes of progressive farmers.

E. T. C.

Portsmouth, R. I.

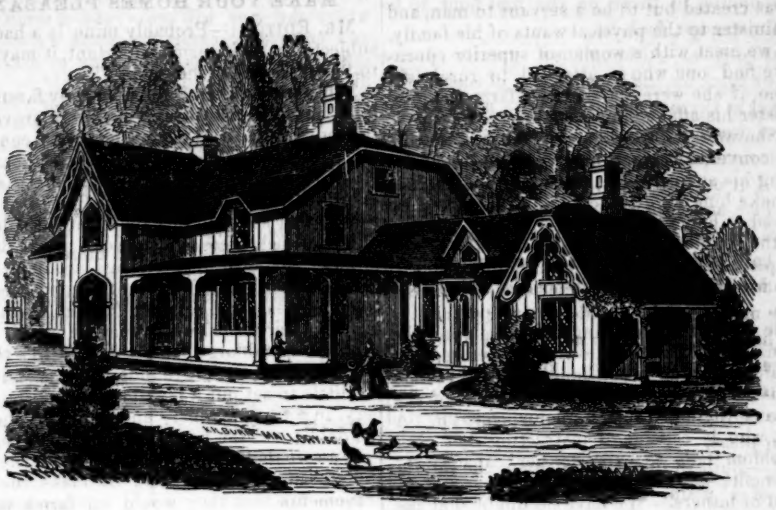
REMARKS.—Excellent. Indoctrinate the people with these ideas, and the price of good land in New England will advance twenty per cent. in less than five years.

For the New England Farmer.

POTATO CULTURE.

I have always noticed in this section that potatoes planted on old pasture or mowing land, newly broken up, and planted without manure, were nearly or quite exempt from the rot, and that some particular varieties have never rotted in the field, though heavily manured. These facts I cannot exactly harmonize with Mr. REED's theory. I read with hope the plan your Concord correspondent was so fortunate to peruse, and practice with success. I inserted peas in the potato according to directions, and waited patiently the result, which I am sorry to say was not very favorable. Several varieties which I tried, rotted just as bad as those planted without peas. I cut the tops from some soon after they commenced drying, and covered the stubs with earth. I dug part of them, and found only one affected, and that but slightly. My hired man dug the rest, but said there were no rotten ones among them. The same varieties in other hills and rows, were one fourth perhaps affected. W. I. SIMONDS.

Roxbury, Vt., Dec. 22, 1858.

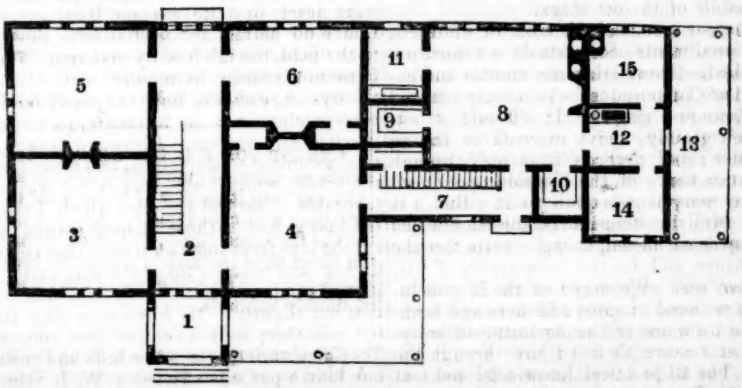


DESIGN FOR A FARM-HOUSE OF THE RURAL GOTHIC STYLE.

The accompanying drawings are a design and plans for a farm-house of the Rural Gothic style, with conveniences for an estate of considerable size. The designs were furnished expressly for our columns, by Geo. E. Harney, Esq., Architect, Lynn, Mass.

The accommodation is as follows: The first floor contains No. 1, a porch, open on three sides, and communicating on the fourth with the hall No. 2, 8 feet wide, and extending through the house, with a door at each end. This hall contains stairs to the chambers, and opens into the principal rooms of the house. No. 3, parlor 15 ft. square; No. 4, living room 15 by 16; No. 5, bedroom 13 ft. by 15; No. 6, bedroom 10 ft. by 15. This room, if desired, may be used for a library. No. 7 is a back entry containing the servants' stairs to chamber and cellar, and opening into the kitchen, No. 8, 18 ft. by 18. Connecting with the kitchen are two large china closets Nos. 9 and 10, and a store-room, No. 11; No 12 is a pantry, 7 ft. by 8, opening upon the small veranda, No. 13; No. 14 is a dairy or milk-room 8 ft. square, and No. 15 is a wash-room or scullery of the same size.

The second story contains seven good-sized bed-rooms with their necessary closets. Those in the L being entirely distinct from the main body, and reached by a different flight of stairs, may be used for servants and hired men. The attics, if not needed at present, may be left unfinished, and used for drying purposes. The cel-



GROUND FLOOR PLAN.

lar occupying the whole of the space under the house should be divided into several apartments corresponding to those on the first floor, to be used for storage, fuel, &c.

Construction.—Although we greatly prefer stone or brick for the construction of such buildings, yet as there seems to be such a prejudice in favor of wood, (especially in New England,) we nave designed the above to be built of that material. For outside finish, we should prefer plank stout inch-and-a-quarter plank—put on in the vertical manner, and the joints covered with two and a half inch battens. The ornamental portions, window-hoods, verge-boards, &c., should also be made from inch-and-a-quarter plank.

We have designed the windows to be filled with lozenge or diamond panes, but these, although more in accordance with the style of the house may be omitted, and rectangular squares inserted in their place.

Cost.—Built in the above manner, the interior finish of a plain, inexpensive character, this house would cost, in the neighborhood of Boston, from $3800 to $4000. G. E. H.

For the New England Farmer.

VARIETIES OF PEARS.

MR. EDITOR:—I have taken the liberty of sending to you a list of those varieties of pear which have fruited well the past season in our locality. There is probably no fruit tree which varies so much upon different soils; each variety, we may almost say, has a peculiarity of its own; hence the Bartlett will assimilate to itself materials for an abundant crop in almost all good soils, while the Beurre d'Aremberg, Diel, Wilkinson and Lewis require a strong and deep soil. It is hardly possible for any single individual to decide upon this desideratum, hence the necessity for an interchange of opinion among the most experienced of our cultivators. There are some varieties which bear the largest and best fruit upon young trees, the Flemish Beauty, for example, while the Glout Morceau require years of bearing before they will develop good fruit; there are others which produce the best specimens when worked upon our largest standard trees; the Seckle, for instance. A want of knowledge of these peculiarities accounts in a measure for the various and conflicting statements made at Pomological Conventions. At a recent meeting two cultivators living within 20 miles of each other, their grounds being exposed to the sea, with similar aspects, were diametrically opposite in their statements of the Napoleon pear; with one it was "very poor in quality and withal, a shy bearer;" with the other its "peculiarly fine quality was never surpassed, as well as its abundant bearing."

From my own experience of the Napoleon, I have always found it poor and astringent when grown upon a warm and sandy loam, while upon a strong and retentive soil I have seen it juicy and fine. The Belle Lucrative as a fall pear, and the Bloodgood as a summer fruit, when grown upon our warm and light soil, we have found to be the two best of their season. There are but few varieties which are equally good in all soils, where the tree will grow, the diversity of soil and culture necessary for some varieties must influence cultivators in forming a list, and this diversity of soil and culture should be given, to enable them to make a selection for their locality. "I have known," says one, "fruits which were very fine immediately around the spot where they originated; but worthless when planted a few miles away in another *exposure.*" Now this word *exposure*, as well as the often misapplied word *acclimation*, have little to do with facts; the want of a congenial soil has more to do with the matter than exposure.

The following pears have generally fruited well in my vicinity, particularly in the season of 1858:

Summer.
Bloodgood.
Rostiezer.

Early Fall.
Bartlett.
Andrews.
Golden Beurre of Bilboa.

Fall.
Beurre Bosc.
Urbaniste.
Belle Lucrative.
Louise Bonne of Jersey.
Thompson.
Seckel.

Native Fall, very Hardy Trees.
Bleeker's Meadow.
Buffum.
Fulton.

Best Eating Winter.
Winter Nelis.
Lawrence.

Winter Baking.
Pound.
Black Pear of Worcester.

Fall Baking.
Rushmore's Bon Chrelien.

Salem, Dec. 27th, 1858. J. M. IVES.

For the New England Farme.

ELECTRICITY.

MR. EDITOR:—I notice in your paper of Dec. 25th some inquiries made by Non-Electricity, in reference to ventilation and electricity, and hasten to answer him at my earliest opportunity.

His several questions, in substance, are, "Why is it that a building well ventilated will not be struck by lightning?" I answer, simply because the *cause* is removed, and where there is no cause there can be no effect.

The atmosphere on the *outside* of the building is not changed by ventilating the building any more than the waters of the ocean would be changed by turning into it a tub of fresh water, but by ventilating you *do* change the air *inside* of the building and make it in the same condition of that *outside*, thus taking advantage of one of the laws that govern electricity, viz., "Likes have no affinity for each other," thus avoiding the disastrous effect of natural equilibration when one of the bodies is confined.

Groton, Jan. 12, 1859. ELECTRICITY.

CEMENT FOR BROKEN CHINA.—Take a very thick solution of gum arabic dissolved in water, and stir into it plaster of Paris until the mixture becomes a viscuous paste. Apply it with a brush to the fractured edges, and stick them together. In three days the article cannot be broken in the same place. The whiteness of the cement renders it doubly valuable.

☞ Our very *manner* is a thing of importance. A kind *no* is often more agreeable than a rough *yes.*

CHESHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

On Friday, the 21st inst., we had the pleasure of attending another meeting of the Cheshire County, N. H., Agricultural Society, in pursuance of their plan to *"have gatherings and discussions in various portions of the county, instead of expending all their funds in paying premiums."* We look upon this as an important movement—a movement better calculated to promote the interests of the cause than any other within our knowledge. It is an example for Massachusetts, which we hope all her agricultural associations will not be slow to adopt.

The meeting was held in one of the churches of the beautiful town of Marlborough, N. H., about five miles from Keene. The exercises commenced at 10 o'clock, A. M., and with adjournments for dinner and tea, were continued until after 9 in the evening, and notwithstanding the rain and extremely bad travelling, there were good audiences during the whole time of highly interested men and women.

The subjects under discussion were, *"The Grasses, Grains and Stock"*—but most of the afternoon was devoted to the subject of the *Grasses*. The President of the Society, Gen. NELSON CONVERSE, occupied the chair, and with happy facility called up those to whom no special duty had been assigned. All the other officers of the Society were present, and the time between the regular addresses was occupied in inquiries, and in the expression of numerous valuable facts and suggestions by practical men. In these discussions Messrs. LEVERETT, MAY and ELLIOT, of Keene, Dr. RICHARDSON, Messrs. HARVEY, HOLMAN and WISWELL, of Marlborough, Col. REED, of Swanzey, and others whose names we did not learn, took an active part,—the President occasionally eliciting experiences too good to be lost, by his happy manner of getting intelligent, but too modest farmers, upon their feet.

There is no doubt on our mind but this is the true mode of expending a considerable portion of their funds, as a hundred dollars will go far towards holding a meeting in every portion of the county. Like the morning paper, it brings the intelligence desired to the *very homes of the people*, and lays it before them in an informal and agreeable manner. But more than all else, it leads them to express their own views, publicly, upon matters of vital importance to their interests, and introduces a spirit for discussion and investigation which will not fail to work out the happiest results.

We look with impatience for the projection of similar plans in our own Commonwealth.

The village of Marlborough is a beautiful one, romantically nestling among the hills, with the *Grand Monadnock* ever keeping "watch and ward" over it, and breaking the progress of the fierce northeasters that would otherwise pour themselves into its bosom. A busy little stream, called "The Branch," a tributary of the Ashuelot, babbles through the valley, urging the machinery by which is wrought out all manner of children's toys, and wooden ware. The village is remarkable for the uniformly neat appearance of its buildings, for the air of thrift and comfort which pervades them all, and for the number of young shade trees which line the roadside, and give taste and refinement to the dwellings. It has, also, one of the best hotels in New England, kept by ASA MAYNARD, Esq., where the traveller will not only find the utmost neatness and order in every department, but his wants anticipated by the kind attentions common at his own fireside. Sancho Panza would have said, perhaps, "Blessings on the man who invented taverns!" We have great affection for a good old-fashioned country hostlerie, away from railroads and the gongs and other pestering particulars of cities, where we can eat and chat and pass the otherwise lonely hours with the family, and be cared for and feel that we are *at home!* Come you here, who travel and climb mountains, and desire to get above the clouds. This is your starting point for the *Grand Monadnock*, and the home of good cheer while you ramble.

At 9 A. M., we left this pleasant spot for the station, three miles distant. There had been a slight fall of snow the previous night, and now the graceful branches of the hemlocks, loaded with pure white snow, contrasting beautifully with the lively green upon which it rested, bowed themselves on either side, reminding us of the Eastern custom of partial prostration, when those whom it is wished to honor pass out or in. Graceful silver birches, rock maples of exquisite symmetry, and noble beeches, skirted the way, while the mountain streams, swollen by the January thaw, were dancing cheerfully on their way to "The Branch," to turn out still more pails and tubs and children's toys! What a pity, that some accomplished artist had not occupied our place, who could have perpetuated this delightful mountain forest view, to please and instruct the thousands who never will be blessed by a personal contemplation of a *Winter scene among these Crystal Hills.*

HILLSBOROUGH SOCIETY.—The Hillsborough County Agricultural and Mechanical Society has elected the following named persons as its officers for the ensuing year:

President—P. M. ROSSITER, Milford.
Rec. Sec.—GILMAN WHEELER, Milford.
Cor. Sec.—H A. DANIELS, Milford.
Treasurer—DAVID STUART, Amherst.
Vice Presidents—John Dodge, Bennington; Isaac Kimball, Temple; Thos. G. Holbrook, Bedford; David Clement, Hudson

For the New England Farmer.

SOIL AND CLIMATE IN VERMONT.

MR. EDITOR:—I noticed with interest a communication in your late issue from S. R. HALL, on the climate and soil of Orleans County, Vt. It is certainly of importance that the climate and soil of our State, especially its northern portions, should become more generally known by your readers; and facts, communicated from such a source as the one referred to, will naturally command attention. But one or two points claimed by Mr. Hall need farther attention. He says, "Should the soil ever deteriorate, we have immense quantities of the richest variety of sphagnous muck, much of which lies above shell-marl, in the beds of ancient ponds and barren meadows. This marl, when converted into lime, and mixed with muck, makes a manure worth from fifteen to twenty per cent. more than cow dung." Now the point is this, if it be true that lime mixed with muck, which is found in great quantities throughout our State, and even New England, forms a fertilizer of one-fifth greater value than common stable manure, it ought to be more generally known. Such a fertilizer, the materials of which are so abundant, would soon bring about a new era in our agricultural operations. But in this matter we want something definite, and fully established on scientific principles. We do not wish to rely on hasty conjectures based on mere theories. We must have something practical and substantial. It is an undisputed fact, that lime and muck form a valuable manure, but that it is fifteen or twenty per cent. *more* valuable than stable manure, is not generally believed. A matter of such importance to the agriculturist should be thoroughly investigated and fully understood.

Again, your correspondent has manifestly fallen into error, where he quotes from "the President of the County Agricultural Society," and states that the stock therein mentioned, viz., four oxen, ten cows and two year olds, two horses, three colts and twelve sheep, is "fully equal to forty cows." This statement seems absurd, for where is the farm in Northern Vermont, of one hundred acres, which produces sufficient in one season to winter forty cows? The amount of the stock mentioned, is only thirty-one head, while a great part of it would require much less than an equal number of cows. But let us investigate the matter more closely, taking the data published in the same number of the *Farmer* which contains Mr. H.'s letter. Four large oxen, supposing their weight to be 6000 lbs., (probably a high estimate) will require in six months, (from 1st Nov. to 1st May,) nearly eleven tons of hay; ten cows and [ten—Ed.] two year olds, supposing their weight to be 8500 lbs., will need about twenty-three tons; two horses and three colts, say eleven tons; and twelve sheep, if their average weight be eighty lbs., about three tons more. The whole foots up in round numbers forty-eight tons. Now forty cows, weighing 850 lbs. each, according to the same data, will require nearly ninety-two tons, sufficient to winter almost double the amount of stock mentioned; or, reckoning them at an average weight of 700 lbs., they must have seventy-five tons.

Such a statement, so wide of the truth, ought not to pass unnoticed, though it come from a source so eminent. We should suppose that Mr. H., who has resided in Orleans County nearly twenty years, and who has, "during that period, been several years engaged in the geological survey of the State," and who has "had a better opportunity to compare the soil in this, with other portions of New England, and especially other portions of Vermont, than, perhaps, any other person," would be able to form a more correct opinion of the productiveness of a farm of one hundred acres, and also a more correct estimate of the comparative quantity of fodder required by different kinds of stock. W.

Brookfield, Vt., Jan., 1859.

REMARKS.—We suppose Mr. HALL intended to convey the idea that the *shell-marl* was to make a component part of the fertilizer he speaks of.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

[REPORTED BY JOHN C. MOORE, FOR THE N. E. FARMER.]

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION—*What breed o stock is best adapted for the purposes of general farming?*

The Legislative Agricultural Society met in the Representatives' Hall, last Monday evening, for the special discussion of the above subject—Hon. JOHN W. PROCTOR, of Danvers, in the chair. There was a very full meeting.

In opening the business of the meeting, the CHAIRMAN apologized for his non-preparation to speak on the subject for debate, which was one of much interest, and one on which opinion differed. We had various kinds of imported cattle among us, besides our common red or native stock. Some thought they had better cattle from the imported descriptions; but it was notorious that the majority of our best cattle were from this native stock. Some upheld that there were no native cattle, as all came from imported stock at some time. As well might it be said that there were no native men. As he understood the question, it meant what class of cattle would be best for mixed farming? There were gentlemen present who had had more enlarged opportunity to give information than he had, consequently he would not dilate on the question, but call on Dr. LORING, of Salem, who had given much attention to the subject.

Dr. LORING responded. He had come to learn and not to teach, for he was only a tyro himself in the branch of husbandry under discussion. Their practical experience was worth a world of theorizings. What is the breed of cattle, if any, which were best fitted to the dairy and the stall here in Massachusetts? About $15,000,000 in value of cattle was owned in this State; and the question might arise as to what was the most profitable description to cultivate. The statistics

of the commonwealth showed that the farmers aimed at the perfection of a dairy stock, and they were right; for their best interests lay in this feature of husbandry. In accordance with the rule of necessity, farmers designed to convert their produce into butter, cheese and milk. Now the question was, what kind of cattle was best for the perfection of this object. We had heard of the old red cattle, which, in the ranks of lower animal life, stood in the same rank as the old red man did compared with the present New Englander. With this red stock there was no rule by which like would produce like. Perfection amongst that class of animals was always accidental, and it was of no use to talk of scientific breeding from that kind of animals, either for fattening or for the dairy. What, then, could we do? In Connecticut we might be told that the short-horn cross was the best; but bring it here, and it would soon deteriorate. We had not feed for them, while our physical circumstances were adverse to their profitable rearing. And how was it with the Devons? Could any one ever say that, at home, they were favored as dairy stock? No! With the exception of the Ayrshire stock, we had none worth our cultivation here in Mass. We would find them fine healthy cattle, with a hardy constitution, and a lacteal development showing emphatically their value. As oxen, they had all the advantages that could be derived; and the farmers of Massachusetts would find it so if they deigned to try. The Alderneys were not, in any respect, a race of animals that could be adapted to our wants. Finally, Dr. LORING thought the question one of the most important that could be discussed, and advised his audience to get stocks of cattle on whom they could rely in producing their like in regard to physical and productive properties. He related his experience as it proved that it was foolishness to go into the process of correct breeding without unquestionably pure stock, as they never would produce herds intended by nature for the advantage of the farmer, and the interests of Massachusetts.

W. J. BUCKMINSTER, of the *Ploughman*, spoke in favor of the Devon cattle, and did not expect ever to see better for all general purposes, or for size and adaptability to the wants of the farm. One point about them was that they were easily kept and throve well on very poor feed, and even fatted well on common meadow hay, which costs less than English hay by nearly one-half. One cow, he saw, which weighed nearly 1200 lbs., which was a very respectable weight. But the size interfered with the milking properties, and it was not assiduously cultivated by farmers. There were no ring-streakings and specklings among the produce of the Devon stock. Mr. B. had information from a party of experience that the half-breed Devons would do one-third more work, with a sixth less food than the Durhams, and not be fatigued or fagged out, as the latter would be.

SANFORD HOWARD, of the *Cultivator*, was the next speaker. His observations substantially were, that he had recent opportunity while in Scotland of seeing Ayrshire cattle, and had inquired into their origin, of which he gave a succinct history. The breed had assumed a character of its own as much as any other which was held to be artificial, and was as popular as any other in Britain for dairy purposes. Jerseys were also popular; but the Ayrshires were preferred above all others, and their adoption was extending much in England and on the Continent. No other breed was kept in Scotland for dairy purpose. They were hardier than the Short Horns or the Channel Island cattle—neither of which could be adapted to the climate of the west of Scotland, where the Ayrshires had their origin. Whether or no the Ayrshires would make superior oxen, as compared with other breeds, was a question; but, from what he had seen he had no reason to doubt that they would compare well. It was not uncommon to find cows making 250 lbs. of butter or 500 to 600 lbs. of cheese, where from 60 to 100 cows were kept on a farm. In England, Devons were not generally kept for dairy purposes, but for beef. Herefords were much the same—and it might be considered that fattening was a leading characteristic of both kinds. The Short Horns were the most profitable kind for beef in the richer lands of England, but they were valuable no where else, and seldom good for milking purposes. Generally, in England, they were very unlike the improved Durhams we saw here. The best beef cattle in Scotland were the Galloways and the Kylore or West Highland cattle. These and the Galloways would prove profitable for beef in the prairie and mountain districts in this country; but if their milking qualities were cultivated they would be spoiled. Mr. Howard had little sympathy with the idea that one kind of cattle was best for the farmer.

LEANDER WETHERELL spoke approvingly of a cross of the Short Horn, if the farmer wanted to make good beef at three years old; but you must have good blood as well as symmetry of form. This cross would best suit the Connecticut valley for both fattening and working purposes. Almost all the cattle there had Durham blood in them, and it was essential for successful breeding for working purposes. They were strong, enduring and patient, and when they became too old to work, were generally in a fine condition to make beef. But the quality of the beef of Durham cattle was not so good, it might

be confessed, although there might be an exception in favor of the grades. If weight was of any importance to the farmer, he had the advantage in cultivating the Durham grades. For raising calves the adoption of the Durham grade was the best that the speaker knew. He mentioned that an instance was within his knowledge where this grade stock had, for fifty years, in one stock, produced five milk cattle, very similar in productive properties. To keep the best cattle for breeding purposes was a rule that no family should keep out of sight.

ASA G. SHELDON, of Wilmington, spoke briefly to the question, throwing out hints that the *disposition of premiums at shows was not the best calculated to encourage improvement.* There ought to be no distinction made between the breeds, but all should compete on the same level. When it was otherwise, the effects were profitable, and, in a series of competitions within his knowledge, the native stock, for three years successively, took the first premiums. This was proof that the native stock made the best dairy stock here, and it would be again, provided opportunity for proof were given. The production of milk and oxen were the two grand objects with the Massachusetts farmers; and it was Mr. S.'s opinion that the native stock were the most reliable for oxen. Mr. Sheldon said he raised his own stock, and described the peculiar marks which, in his estimation, denoted perfection in his breeding animals, and related a curious anecdote concerning one of his cattle.

Mr. JOHN C. MOORE made a few observations, by request, relative to the mode of breeding and treatment of cattle followed in Ayrshire, amongst improving farmers. These differed essentially from what we have them among us. He thought attention to native stock would perfect them to the extent of production of imported cattle.

The CHAIRMAN was in favor of native cattle, and quoted statistics showing that they were, on the average, preferable to any other stock.

Mr. DAVIS, of Plymouth, also spoke of the native breed, and thought that, if improvement was to take place, it might as well be among them as by the means of other cattle. He quoted instances which tended to show that the process might be a profitable one, and that there were cases of great productive ability among native stock. Four pounds and a half of the milk from a cow of a friend of his had yielded one and a quarter pounds of butter. If this could be done in one instance, why could it not be in many instances?

Dr. LORING reviewed the arguments of the several speakers, and drew consolation from those of his opponents, in so far as they supported his own in showing that, (as stated by Mr. Sheldon,) several competitions had taken place at which no native cattle were produced worthy of the prizes. He further urged that whenever perfection had showed itself in cattle, it had been the fruit of previous importation of foreign stock. It was his opinion that, wherever there was a really valuable herd of cattle, it had its origin from foreign importations.

Mr. SHELDON retorted that when the imported cattle were shown against the native cattle, in the instances he had quoted, none of them had taken a premium. As certain evidences of the superior merit of the native cattle, he had spoken of they were brought down from Middlesex County to Boston, and took the premiums when pitted against all the breeds that could be exhibited against them. If we had taken half the trouble in improving as we have done in importing, our improvement would have been much greater and more reliable.

The subject for next week's discussion will be "*Fruit and the Cultivation of Fruit Trees.*"

A motion was made by Mr. SARGENT, of Newbury, that the Ayrshire cattle were the best stock for general purposes.

Mr. PAGE, of Brimfield, spoke briefly concerning a purchase he made of cattle which he deemed to be native—and which possessed extra properties. At 23 months old one of their produce brought $50, and when 4 years old, she gave 40 lbs. of milk per day for three weeks in succession, and could not be bought for $100. But it turned out that the dam of this cow was an Ayrshire cow! All her produce was thrifty and easily reared; and as there was little native stock now to be found, the fact spoke favorably for the opinion laid down by Dr. Loring, that perfecture comes from imported stock.

Mr. SARGENT, of Newbury, made a few remarks in support of his resolution. He had long been in favor of Durhams, but his experience had told him the Ayrshires were preferable.

SIMON BROWN, editor *N. E. Farmer*, was not satisfied that the Ayrshire cattle were the best for *all* purposes, otherwise he would vote for the resolution. He had seldom seen Ayrshire oxen, and was not ready to give an opinion of their merits. He believed Ayrshire cows, or grade Ayrshires, the best stock for the dairy. He approved of systematic breeding, in order that pure results should flow from its practice. He would vote for the resolution if the words "general use" were stricken, out and the words "dairy purposes" substituted.

Dr. REYNOLDS, of Concord, spoke briefly to the general question, arguing that cattle were improving, and that the cause was judicious crossing with imported blood. He doubted the ability of any gentleman to trace the pedigree of native cattle in such manner as to prove them uncrossed.

The CHAIRMAN said that all cattle were *native* that could not be proved to belong to the imported races.

Mr. SHELDON thought that *good keep* had as much to do with improvement of cattle as had foreign importations.

Several other gentlemen spoke, and the meeting broke up after 10 o'clock—Mr. Sargent's resolution being first laid on the table.

For the New England Farmer.

BOOK KNOWLEDGE VS. EXPERIENCE—SALTING PLUM TREES.

MR. EDITOR:—In this month's number of the *Farmer* an article appeared with the above caption. The writer does not inform us of the *modus operandi* of his applying this article. Having had some experience in this matter of salt on land, I can only say that in February of 1845, I applied to one acre five hogsheads, and for the two following seasons my trees produced greatly, particularly the Green Gage; I had at that time upwards of twenty-five varieties of the plum. Previous to this my fruit was badly stung by the curculio. I could not, however, perceive that the salt had any effect upon the black wart, which has since destroyed nearly all the plum trees in this section; my fruit was most satisfactorily preserved for two years from the curculio. A friend from a neighboring city on a visit to my place while the salt lay upon the surface, on his return home applied brine to a few trees, which killed them outright; salt as well as guano must be used in a proper manner; crude salt or brine must not come in close proximity to the roots; it should be applied to the surface of the ground early in the spring, to the extent or spread of the branches, and remain upon the surface some two or three weeks before spading in. The plum is naturally a marine tree, and it is surprising how much salt it will assimilate and thrive upon. The asparagus is also a marine plant, hence a sprinkling of salt over the bed in early spring is beneficial, but we should not reason that if a small portion would be good, a large quantity would be better. A servant of Judge P., of our city, reasoning after this fashion, destroyed his plants.

Regarding the severe experiment, as it was then called, on my land, Mr. Downing, who visited my place when the crop of plums was upon the trees, remarked in his *Horticulturist*, that my garden was in a neighborhood not remarkable for plums, and that the abundant production of this fruit, he attributed to the destructive effect of the salt on the curculio.

Many writers in our agricultural papers are too indefinite; they should be more explicit, not only in the precise article recommended, but the season and mode of applying it. We often find lime recommended, but whether stone or shell lime we are not informed; the article lime, so highly commended by Mr. Pell, the great apple-grower in New York, is *shell*, and not stone lime, the latter having frequently magnesia in combination, which is deleterious to the land.

Salem, Dec. 15, 1858. J. M. IVES.

CONVENTION OF AGRICULTURISTS AT WASHINGTON.

The delegates invited by the Secretary of the Interior to represent the agricultural interests, from the several sections of the United States, met in the Patent Office in Washington, on the 3d January.

D. J. Browne, Esq., who has charge of the Agricultural Division of the Patent Office Bureau, was present, and explained to the members of the convention the objects of the meeting to be for the purpose of aiding the department in obtaining more thorough and reliable information in regard to the present condition and progress of agriculture throughout the Union, both as it regards statistical facts, and as to the results of improvements instituted and practices followed in the various branches of farm and plantation management. This information to be published in the Reports, with a view to the "elevation of agriculture, so essential to our wealth and prosperity, as a nation, at least to an equality with other pursuits."

The Convention then proceeded to organize. Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, of Massachusetts, was chosen President, and Major Ben. Perley Poore, of the same State, was chosen Secretary. The roll of names being then called, it was found that the different States and Territories were represented.

The Secretary then read a list of questions presented by Mr. Browne.

A discussion then sprang up in regard to the name by which the Convention should be known, and it was finally voted that it should be called the "Agricultural Advisory Board of the Patent Office."

It was also voted to divide the Board into five divisions, as follows:

1st. The New England States, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

2d. Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

3d. Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Indian Territory, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee.

4th. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

5th. New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Oregon, and Washington.

The delegates of each division form a committee to examine and report upon the interrogatories submitted to them, with power to change and to propose others, or more, as they might think proper.

It was then voted that a committee of five be appointed by the chair, as a business committee, to bring forward subjects of discussion during evenings, and the following gentlemen were appointed:

Hon. D. J. Browne, of Patent Office, *(ex officio;)* F. G. Cary, of Ohio; Dr. John A. Kennicutt, of Illinois; James G. Holmes, of South Carolina; Frederick Holbrook, of Vermont, and Hon. Delazon Smith, of Oregon.

It was then voted that there should be a regular meeting of the Board, each morning at ten o'clock, after the adjournment of which the several divisions should go into session by them-

selves in committee room for the transaction of such special business as devolved upon them.—*Maine Farmer.*

For the New England Farmer.

LEGISLATION—LAND DRAINAGE COMPANIES.

BY H. F. FRENCH, EXETER, N. H.

How far it may be competent for a State Legislature to provide for or assist in the drainage of extensive or unhealthy marshes, or how far individual owners should be compelled to contribute to a common improvement of their lands, or how far, and in what cases one land-owner should be authorized to enter upon land of another, to secure or maintain the best use of his own land, these are questions which it is unnecessary for us to attempt to determine. It is well that they should be suggested, because they will, at no distant day, engage much attention. It is well, too, that the steps which conservative England has thought it proper to take in this direction, should be understood, that we may be better determined whether any, and if any, what course our States may safely take, to aid the great and leading interests of our country.

The swamps and stagnant meadows along our small streams and our rivers, which are taken from the farmer by flowage, for the benefit of mills, are often, in New England, the most fertile part of the townships, equal to the bottom lands of the West; and they are right by the doors of young men who leave their home with regret, because the rich land of far-off new States offers temptations which their native soil cannot present.

It is certainly of great importance to the old States to inquire into these matters, and set proper bounds to the use of streams for water power. The associated wealth and influence of manufacturers is always more powerful than the individual efforts of the land owners.

Reservoirs are always growing larger, and dams continually grow higher and tighter. The water by little and little creeps insiduously on to and into the meadows far above the obstruction, and the land-owner must often elect between submission to this aggression, or a tedious law-suit with a powerful adversary.

The evil of obstructions to streams and rivers, is by no means limited to the land visibly flowed, nor to land at the level of the dam. Running water is never level, or it could not flow, and in crooked streams which flow through meadows obstructed by grass and bushes, the water raised by a dam often stands many feet higher at a mile or two back, than at the dam. It is extremely difficult to set limits to the effect of such a flowage. Water is flowed into the subsoil, or rather is prevented from running out. The natural drainage of the country is obstructed, and land which might well be drained, artificially, were the stream not obstructed, is found to lie so near the level, as to be deprived of the requisite fall, by backwater, or the sluggish current, occasioned by the dam.

These obstructions to drainage have become subjects of much attention, and of legislative intervention in various forms in England, and some of the facts elicited in their investigations are very instructive.

In a discussion before the Society of Arts, in 1855, in which many gentlemen experienced in drainage took a part, the subject of obstruction by mill-dams came up.

Mr. G. Donaldson said he had been much engaged in works of land-drainage and that in many instances great difficulties were experienced in obtaining outfalls, owing to the water-rights on the course of rivers for mill-power.

Mr. R. Grantham spoke of the necessity of further legislation, "so as to give power to lower bridges and culverts under public roads, straighten and deepen rivers and streams;" but he said authority was wanting, above all, "for the removal of mills, dams and other obstructions in rivers, which in many cases did incalculable injury, many times exceeding the value of the mills, by keeping up the level of rivers, and rendering it totally impossible to drain the adjoining lands."

Mr. R. H. Davis said if they were to go into the midland districts, they would see great injury done, from draining the water for mills.

In Scotland the same difficulty has arisen. "In many parts of this country," says a Scottish writer, "small lochs (lakes) and dams are kept up for the sake of mills, under old terraces, which if drained, the land gained by that operation would, in many instances, be worth ten times the rent of such mills."

The river Nene, running a sinuous course of sixty miles from Northampton to Peterborough, possesses a natural fall of 3¼ feet per mile. This is held up in levels throughout, by no less than thirty-three water mills for grinding flour, and thirty-four lochs and eleven staunches, some for the mills and some for the purposes of navigation, the natural fall being 177 feet and the aggregate heads of the lochs and staunches 163½ feet. This occasions the water at the dry weather level to be higher than the adjacent meadows for about one-third the length of the valley, but the full-water level stands above the adjacent meadows for three-fourths of the length of the valley.

So long ago as 1633, a commission sat to inquire into the best mode of redressing the abuses causing such damage to the lands on the Nene,

and they ordered the dikes to be scowed and obstructions removed, and the river widened to its ancient breadth. They fixed the number and width and guage of all the gates at the mills. But an investigation 200 years later shows that the mill-owners could not be thus restrained. By raising their dams, by putting on flush-boards, by stopping up outlets and various other devices, they had greatly enlarged their privileges, so that by a survey made in 1826, and another subsequently, it appears that only five mills out of twenty-one inspected had their wheels and wasteways according to the prescribed levels. The excess of water generally amounted to from eight inches to two feet of water at each mill, and often to three feet. It was found that the land-owners could not even enforce the well-known ordinances of the Court of Sewers. "It was found that nothing could be done to restrict the millers, but by plunging into endless lawsuits."

By authority of various old acts giving powers to Sewers Commissioners, and to navigation companies to maintain the river Nene navigable for boats, &c., and by a new act in aid of a grand enterprise for draining the whole valley, it is supposed that the navigation will be improved, the water-power of the mills increased generally, though one at least must be removed, the healthfulness of the district be much increased, and immense tracts of land thoroughly drained and made productive in agriculture. "The district will also possess the essential conditions needful for irrigation, a fresh water stream on a permanent level, sufficiently elevated to supply a flow over the surface of the meadows, combined with a competent system of dams for carrying off the spent floods."

Under the provisions of the Nene Valley Act are divisions of 6000 acres of the lands benefitted by the drainage, and subjected to an annual "outfall tax" of about one shilling per acre, and a "district tax" for their own interior works at the rate of five shillings per acre. Both these rates are to be apportioned according to the degrees of benefit received by the lands from the proposed improvements, the graduation to be fixed by valuers or referees. The whole cost of the improvements will be about £275,000.

This sketch of the operations in the Nene Valley is given merely as an illustration of the mode of operation in the mother country, and to show how the rights of land-owners are constantly and almost inevitably encroached upon by those who control the water-power.

In another instance, that of the Rye and Derwent Drainage, an account of which is found in the 14th vol. of the Journal of the Royal Ag. Soc., a plan of compensation was adopted, where it became necessary to remove dams and other obstructions, which is worthy of attention. The Commissioners under the Act of 1846 removed the mill-wheels and substituted steam-engines corresponding to the power actually used by the mills, compensating, also, the proprietors for inconvenience and the future additional expensiveness of the new power.

"The claims of a short canal navigation, two fisheries and tenants' damages through derangement of business during the alterations, were disposed of without much outlay, and the pecuniary advantages of the work are apparent from the fact, that a single flood such as frequently overflowed the land, has been known to do more damage, if fairly valued in money, than the whole sum expended under the Act."

For the New England Farmer.

PRICE AND MEASUREMENT OF MILK.

MR. EDITOR:—I wish to make a single inquiry through the columns of your paper; that while so much attention is being given by the milk-raisers of our State in selecting the best cows for milk, and discussing the various breeds as to their milking qualities, and paying exorbitant prices therefor, and of raising different crops of roots, and of the manner of feeding the same so as to produce the greatest quantity of milk, they say not one word about the price they are to receive for their milk, or give it the slightest attention, but submit to whatever price the milkman chooses to pay them, be it ever so ruinous. With the exception of a few towns in the immediate vicinity of Boston, milk is the main product of the farm, and to which the farmer gives his exclusive attention. With all other products of the farm, the farmer generally has a price, but with his milk, the main thing he has to depend upon, *he has no price, but takes whatever the milkman chooses to give him!*

Milkmen are different in some respects from dealers generally—there is no competition with them—they make the price both with the raiser and consumer, and stick to those prices. If one of their party happens to "bolt," he is kicked out, and if possible, his customers got away from him. If he proves too able for them, and believes in the manly art of self-defence, they despise him, as belonging to an unhealthy organization, not fit to associate with.

Is there no system by which the milk-raisers can have a voice in the price of milk, or are they willing to remain dormant, and take whatever the milkman chooses to give them?—a system by which the farmers can co-operate together, and break up this infernal practice of buying by one measure, and selling by another, and regulate the price of their milk instead of submitting every thing to the milkman?

The milkman adheres strictly to beer measure, and will buy by no other. Cannot the milk-raiser adhere to wine measure, and sell by no other? I read with pleasure your article in a previous number of the *Farmer*, upon forming farmers' clubs in the different towns of the State, and liked your suggestions very much, and I hope it

will meet with the favorable consideration of the farmers of the several towns, as also the best method of raising and selling milk.

Lexington, Jan. 24, 1859. A SUBSCRIBER.

REMARKS.—We have long been surprised that this subject has not received more attention by those directly interested in it. If the milk-buyers of Boston and the surrounding cities were aware of the impositions practiced upon them, they would rise in their might, establish milk depots, employ their own agents, and apply at once to the Legislature for proper officers to inspect the milk brought to them.

We hope our correspondent—whose name is before us—will arouse the community to a sense of the need of important changes, and we assure him that numerous enterprising and intelligent men are ready to act, and are only waiting for some one to lead off in the matter. Under a proper system of buying and selling, purchasers in the cities would get *better milk*, and *more of it*, at *a less price than they now do*, while the profits that are now divided among the go-betweens, would partly go to the producers, where they belong.

The farmer cannot live by the prices he now gets for his milk; it would be worth fifteen to twenty per cent. more to him made into butter—while such a system of corruption has crept into the trade, and milk itself, that *children cannot live upon it*, nor all honest men thrive upon it, who are engaged in its purchase and sale.

We have intelligent and active committees upon agricultural subjects in our present Legislature, and we now suggest to our friends to make another effort.

First, To settle the law beyond all question and cavil, as to what a legal liquid gallon is in this Commonwealth. Whether it is a wine gallon of 231 cubic inches, or a beer gallon of 282 cubic inches. The people do not understand it.

Secondly, To legalize the "*can*" as a measure of capacity, because the necessities of the trade demand it just as much as the grain trade demands a fixed legal capacity for the half bushel.

The "can" is now a sort of hydra-bellied monster that will take in only seven quarts in the country, but conceives so rapidly on the way to the city, that on arriving there, it will disgorge *ten* quarts with the greatest ease!

Thirdly, To ask the legislature to legalize certain persons to inspect milk offered for sale, and affix heavy penalties upon those who adulterate it, when that fact shall be proved upon them.

Now is the time to act. Pour in your petitions to the Legislature in the course of next week. We subjoin the form of a petition, so that all may have it to act upon at once.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IN GENERAL COURT ASSEMBLED.

Your Petitioners respectfully represent, that the Farmers of this Commonwealth are deeply interested in the production and sale of *Milk*; that the number of Cows kept within our borders is about 150,000, producing annually a quantity of Milk, valued at the low rate of three cents per quart, and allowing four quarts per day to each Cow, at the sum of *six millions five hundred and seventy thousand dollars a year*; that Milk for the Markets is generally delivered by the producers in *Tin Cans* furnished by the purchasers, said to contain a specified number of quarts; that many of such purchasers still continue to use the *Ale Quart*, which is not recognized by the Statutes now in force, while others use the *Wine Quart*, which is the measure prescribed by law; and that great inequality, injustice, and fraud, both to the producers and consumers, result from such confusion of the standards of measure, the Cans varying from 8¼ to 8¾ quarts.

Wherefore, they pray that it may be prescribed by law, under adequate penalties, that no *Cans* shall be used in the delivery or sale of Milk, except such as *shall be legally sealed by the town or city sealer of weights and measures*, and *marked with a figure or figures* denoting the capacity of such *Can* in quarts by *Wine Measure*, with a proper allowance to be by law prescribed, for the reduction of the bulk of the milk in cooling.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

For the New England Farmer.

MAINE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The Maine Board of Agriculture met at the State Farm, Jan. 19th. Robert Martin, of West Danville, was chosen President, N. T. True, of Bethel, Vice President, S. L. Goodale, Secretary. The Board, representing twenty-four societies, held two sessions a day and a public discussion every evening, to continue for ten days. The Board is an able body of men made up of practical and intelligent farmers who are earnest in their labors to elevate the condition of agriculture. Reporters are constantly present who spread broadcast through the papers, among the people, every important point discussed, so that the whole agricultural population of the State are at once, to a great extent, on an equal footing with the members of the Board. This we think is an important point. Shut up the doings of such a Board in Reports merely, and the few only will be the wiser. The last year, topics were assigned to each member to be reported and incorporated into the Secretary's Report of the present year, which to Maine farmers is becoming a most important document.

The close observer of our history will be struck with the marked improvements that are going on in many parts of our State, in agriculture. We have better stock, barns, deeper and more careful tillage, more reading, thinking men every year. Farmers' Clubs have sprung up even here.

In looking over the capital of our State, I find that the most elegant building in the city is the new jail just erected. Punishment in jail, means now, loss of personal liberty and nothing more, while to some poor fellow it may be a comfortable refuge. T.

Augusta, Me., Jan. 22, 1859.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

MANURE ON SOWED CROPS—LIME, ASHES AND PLASTER IN THE HILL.

I wish to inquire whether it is best to spread on all manure in the fall for a sowed crop, or let it lay in the heap until spring? Whether the strength will not soak down in the spring when the ground is not beyond the reach of the roots? *(a.)*

Also, whether lime or plaster should be mixed with wood ashes, or whether all three be mixed together, or used separately, to put in the hill for corn or potatoes? *(b.)*

A portion of my farm work for a number of years has been, raising potatoes for the market, and I have read everything in the *Farmer* with interest, on the subject of the potato rot. For a number of years I have noticed that a portion of the vines have been eaten by some insect, but the insect I could never find. On reading the statements last fall, made, I think, by Mr. READ, of Baltimore, I was satisfied that rot was caused by the bug he had discovered. But when I began to dig I did not find a single potato in those hills where the vines were eaten that was affected with rot, while in the hills by their side, where the vines had not been eaten, there were rotten potatoes. W.

New London, N. H., Jan. 6, 1859.

REMARKS.—*(a.)* If you mean by a sowed crop, rye or wheat sowed in the fall, we should say spread the manure and plow or harrow it under before sowing the grain. If you, fortunately, get manure after this work is done, and you wish to give the crop the benefit of it, make it as fine as possible and spread it on in the fall.

(b.) Mix your lime, ashes, and plaster, and apply them all at once. No harm will be done by the mixing that we know of.

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POTATOES IN 1858.

Mr. Secretary Flint, in his letter to Gov. Banks, says that the crop of potatoes in Massachusetts has been uncommonly good, and that the yield amounted to six million bushels, at least, of the value of $3,000,000. If this be so, what has become of the bugs that threatened to poison and destroy all the potatoes? I believe by this time, Mr. Editor, you, like myself, have become satisfied that this bug or insect theory of potato-destruction is one of the humbugs of the day. If you think otherwise please say so, that we may know where to find you, before we plant again.

***

REMARKS.—Well, Mr. Star, we are not entirely satisfied that *the bugs* do not have something to do with the disease in potatoes, after all. At any rate, we have a good deal of respect for the opinions of men whom we know, and who have bestowed much time and money upon their investigations. The opinion of a person so watchful and observing as yourself, checks us in giving full belief to the *bug theory;* so that while our opinions are thus balanced, we hope they will not influence your *planting*, or that of any other person, the coming spring.

—

A DISCOVERY OF OLD TIMBER IN THE OCEAN.

Not long since I had the pleasure of reading in your instructive journal an article on the *value of wood and the planting forest trees.* It makes me avail myself of the present opportunity to send you a short reminiscence for your monthly. The accompanying strip of bark, from an English oak, was taken from a log twenty feet long and two to two and a half feet in diameter, at one of the Liverpool, England, timber-yards, visited in the year 1845, where was seen a vast number of logs, say a ship load, brought from the coast of Scotland. These logs having been fished up at a distance of two to three miles from the shore, in open sea. The time is not known when the ocean had so invaded the earth as to make these desposites.

This timber was of the most desirable character to a people who so much admire the wood, and indeed we are assured its value paid largely to the fortunate discoverers. It was used at prices of rosewood and mahogany, and in furniture, for panel-work. It was patronized by the nobility, speaking well for both the enterprise and patriotism of the nation.

A READER AND SUBSCRIBER.

January, 1859.

—

MOWING MACHINES.

"Facts are stubborn things." A working man informs me, that he has cut the present season, with one of Allen's mowers, 325 acres of grass, yielding on an average, at least, one and a half tons to the acre, amounting to 450 tons, besides many acres of second crop, yielding one ton to the acre. This has been done on an average of time to the acre not exceeding 50 minutes. The machine has been moved by the same pair of horses, which he has used for three years, for this purpose. He has driven them himself, with no assistant near. On some days has cut ten acres at least, with no re-sharpening of the knives.

I have repeatedly seen the grounds on which this implement has operated, and know no reason to question the correctness of the statements. If these facts do not prove that mowers can be advantageously used, where there is grass enough grown to justify their use—say on farms where there are fifty acres or more to be mown; or in neighborhoods where several can produce as much as this by combining together—then I will admit my notions of the labors required in carrying on a farm are erroneous. I do not say that other machines may not be used to equally good advantage. I only speak of what I have witnessed. ESSEX.

Dec., 1858.

PEAS IN POTATOES TO PREVENT ROT.

May 11, I planted in the garden twenty hills of pogie potatoes; holes were made in the potatoes with a penknife, and from four to six peas were thrust into each potato. The soil was a black, moist loam; no manure was put into the hill. *September* 4, the potatoes were dug. Every hill had potatoes in it affected with rot, fully as much as potatoes in the same garden, planted in the ordinary way; nor was there any difference in yield in favor of the experiment. The pea vines, which were quite scanty produced very few and inferior pods. D.

Melrose, Mass., January, 1859.

DISEASE AMONG CATTLE.

In looking over your paper of January 8th, I noticed an article headed "*Fatal Disease among Cattle.*" About the year 1850 I lost seven head with this same disorder, and for the benefit of those who may have cattle similarly afflicted, I send the following receipt:

Take ½ pint of vinegar, 1 teaspoonful pepper, 1 teaspoonful salt, and mix and stir well together; turn up the head and turn this into the ears. I have never known this to fail if applied in season. I have had several taken since I first adopted this remedy, and have found it a sure cure.

PHILIP JUDKINS.

Carthage, Me., Jan. 10, 1859.

BUNCH ON A HORSE'S LEG.

To a Subscriber in Millbury.—I had a bunch form on the inside of the leg of a young horse, caused by the pole striking against the inside of the leg, which I removed by using the Mexican Mustang Liniment. A. W. P.

Sutton, Mass., Jan., 1859.

MILK AND BUTTER AFFECTED WITH THE FLAVOR OF WILD ONIONS AND LEEKS.

Can you inform me if there is any way to take the taste out of milk and butter where the cows have eaten *wild onions* or "*leeks?*" I have a pasture which is connected with a piece of woodland, where they abound in the spring of the year, and the milk is rendered useless only for the pigs. SUBSCRIBER.

Danville, Vt., Jan. 8, 1859.

A. P*******k, Saugus, Mass., need not keep back his light for the reasons he gives. Let it shine, and illuminate our columns.

SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE.—Mr. Henry C. Vail, who has had much experience as an agricultural instructor and lecturer, is now located at Springfield, N. Y., where he receives pupils for a course of agricultural instruction, in which they are indoctrinated in the connexion of the sciences with the successful cultivation of the soil. Mr. Vail claims for his system of instruction that it is simple, thorough and efficient, and that it has the approval of the best cultivators and scientific men.

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

FOURTH DAY.

Prof. J. W. P. JENKS, of Middleboro', was appointed Zoologist to the Board for one year. A committee was also appointed to transfer the State Farm to the Board of Trustees of the Institution.

The following resolutions presented by Mr. BROWN, of Middlesex, were pretty fully discussed, and severally laid on the table.

Resolved, That the Legislature be requested to pass an act requiring each county society receiving a portion of its bounty, to appropriate one-third of the whole amount received, to the support of agricultural meetings and discussions in various parts of each county.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Board, whenever any article, stock, implement, or anything else, has once received the highest premium in its class, of any society, it should never receive another premium from any incorporated society within the limits of the State.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, that the establishment of more than one agricultural society in each county of the Commonwealth, and receiving its bounty, *is not* conducive to the agricultural interests of the State.

The committee on the *Dog Law* were directed to prepare a new draft of that law, and lay it before the joint committees on agriculture, and explain to them the necessity that exists for its modification.

A committee previously appointed to consider the subject of the distribution of agricultural tracts, made a majority and minority report. The committee was charged and further instructed to carry out the views expressed in the majority report.

A committee was appointed to petition the Legislature for the sum of $3000 to aid in scientific and practical investigation, and to promote the general interest of agriculture, enlarging the museum, &c., &c.

Committees were appointed to inquire whether anything can be done to avoid collision in the time of the exhibitions of the several societies; to recommend some uniformity of action on the part of societies in awarding premiums; and to consider the propriety of instituting meetings and discussions to be continued one or more days and evenings.

Manures—Messrs. Fisher, White and Brooks.

Renovation of Pasture Lands—Messrs. Felton, Lewis and Lathrop.

Market Fairs—Messrs. Tracy, Sutton and Davis.

Root Crops—Messrs. Brown, Gardner and Atwater.

Fruits and Fruit Culture—Messrs. Wilder Bull and Durfee.

Farm Fences—Messrs. Sewall and Davis.

Cattle Husbandry—Messrs. Lathrop, Tracy and Brooks.

Sheep Husbandry—Messrs. Grennell, Bushnell and Knox.

Diseases of Vegetables—Messrs. Bartlett and Lewis.

Improvement of Horses—Messrs. Atwater and Marston.

Grain Crops—Messrs. Bushnell and Bull.

FOURTH LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

[Reported by John C. Moore, for the N. E. Farmer.]

The meeting of this Society in Representatives' Hall, last Monday evening, was well attended. Hon. Marshall P. Wilder was called to the chair.

The subject for discussion was,—"*Fruits, and the Culture of Fruit Trees.*"

The Chairman said it gave him great pleasure to make a few remarks on the subject of discussion, which was one of the most important that could be debated. Fruits, as articles of market value, were among the most important of the products of the farm, and as much so to the country as to the Commonwealth. Their cultivation had made great progress among us within the past fifty years. The crop in 1835 was valued at $700,000. In 1845 its value was $1,300,000. In 1860 it could not be less than two millions of dollars—more than the value of the wheat, oats, rye and barley in the State. Such had been the results of pomological science in Massachusetts that her exhibitions sustained the highest rank. One gentleman who had had opportunity of judging said that he saw more choice fruit at one of our exhibitions here than he saw at twenty in Europe, where, as in Germany, the greatest encouragement had been given to pomology by the government. But great as was our credit here, it was eclipsed by that of California and Oregon Territory, correspondence from which regions showed that they were blessed with wonderful natural facilities for the growth of fruits of all kinds. Col. Wilder read a letter from a correspondent at Munroe, Oregon, stating that he had forwarded a box containing an apple forty ounces in weight and twelve others averaging a pound and a half each! Another correspondent from the same region informed him that ten millions of nursery trees had been sold in Willimet Valley; and Col. W. added that at Washington, a few days ago, he saw a pear from that place which weighed four pounds! Grapes, when their value was considered, either as an article of luxury or commerce, had important claims on attention in respect to the best sorts to cultivate, and best modes of cultivating them. The pear crop in this State was valued at $100,000 per annum, and also demanded a full share of attention, with respect to kinds best suited to our soil, and to the most approved manner of cultivation. We had among us many varieties of pears adapted to our climate and soil, and of these varieties the Bartlett, Vicar of Winkfield, and others which he named, were well adapted.

The following were recommended as the *six* best varieties of apples:—The Williams, Early Bough, Gravenstein, Fameuse, Hubbardston, Nonsuch and the Baldwin; and if *twelve* varieties were desired, the Red Astracan, Rhode Island Greening, Ladies' Sweet, Porter and Talman Sweet might be added.

For pears on their own roots the following were recommended as the best *six*:—The Bartlett, Urbaniste, Flemish Beauty, Belle Lucrative, Onondaga and Doyenne Boussock; and if six were desired on quince stocks, the Chairman recommended the Louise bonne de Jersey, Urbaniste, Duchesse d' Angouleme, Vicar of Winkfield, Beurre d' Anjou and Glout Morceau.

With regard to the conditions of proper cultivation of fruits, no great success could ever attend the labor of producing them unless it was conducted with a care equal or superior to what was spent on any other kind of production. One of the primary and most essential conditions had proved itself to be thorough draining, as through its operation the more troublesome diseases and parasitical affections were obviated. This thorough drainage, Col. Wilder insisted, was an absolute associate of success. He then made a few remarks on the great necessity of keeping the soils of orchards in a rich condition, by manuring, and of planting the various descriptions of trees in the soils best suited to them. He repudiated the fashion of adopting too many foreign trees; for, as a general principle, trees and plants flourished better on the soil of their origin than they did in localities foreign to them. Col. W. recommended raising seedlings, as on them we would ultimately have our surest dependence for good, reliable fruit trees. We had doubtlessly a number of fine fruits already native to the soil—at the head of which stood the Baldwin apple of which 50,000 barrels were last fall exported, from this city. At a late meeting at Rochester, N. Y., the Baldwin had three marks of merit to one for any other kind, and the others which received the next highest commendations were the Rhode Island Greening, the Russet and the Tompkins' County King. Col. Wilder went on to give the statistics of apple and peach culture in the West and South, showing that it was much more extensive than was generally believed. He concluded by saying that he hailed with pleasure

the wide-spread interest now manifested in relation to the cultivation of the grape. The time, he said, was within the recollection of some present, when the Catawba and the Isabella were first brought into notice. Hundreds of cultivators were now raising seedlings, and the day would soon come when our markets would vie with those of Italy, Sicily, and other grape-growing countries, where this luscious fruit is not only a luxury to the opulent, but the food of the humblest peasant. Our native wines were attracting attention in Europe, and at a late convention in Belgium, our Catawba was pronounced superior to the best varieties of Rhine wine. Our own Concord grape, also, had attained great estimation among wine-growers, as had been testified to by Mr. Longworth, of Cincinnati. We have been compelled to give merely the substance of Col. Wilder's remarks.

Hon. B. V. FRENCH, made a few remarks in favor of draining the soil for the production of the finer fruits, as the higher the culture the more perfect the produce. His subsequent remarks were very practical, and of great value.

Mr. BULL, of Concord, had spent much of his time in cultivating the grape, and had not been rewarded for his labor, because experience taught him that our imported varieties were not to be depended on, and suggested that our native varieties would have to be resorted to in order to produce a grape suited to the circumstances of safe cultivation. The carrying out this idea produced the Concord grape, and others from it which he thought to be of greater value; and a continuation of the same process would result in the obtaining of a great variety of grapes, each suited to the soils and circumstances of the Commonwealth. As to the field culture of the grape, if wine-making was all that was required, it was ready for adoption; but if it was desired that the field grape should be a good table grape here, experience and research, *and time*, must bring it forward. The combination of delicacy of aroma and hardiness in the meantime was not to be found in openly cultivated grapes, although the day was close at hand when it would be so. Speaking practically of the cultivation of the grape, Mr. Bull commended the use of sulphur as a preventive of mildew in the case of the imported varieties, as the absence of it aggravated the mildew; but it was better to have a grape that would not require such artificial cultivation —that would be hardy under any common circumstances—such a grape as would not demand unusual attention on the average of soils, one that might be treated in the commonest manner. The Concord grape had proved itself of this kind, and Mr. Bull hoped that he might be in a position to be the instrument of restoring to many places the healthy grape, in place of the diseased one. Mr. B. was not in favor of pruning close, but commended what is called the *spur system*, and he found it the most profitable and its results the most productive. Other practical remarks were made which were too elaborate for our space. He wished that all grape growers would commence to grow from seed, as by that process they would best arrive at their main purpose—improvement.

Mr. SHELDON, of Wilmington, made a few observations on the evil of opening apple trees too much on the top by pruning, which he thought was too much talked of and practiced to be profitable or prudent. He objected to planting fruit trees too far apart, and recommended 30 feet, as that distance was more favorable to the protection of an orchard from heavy winds than any other—always providing for a sufficient ventilation. He disapproved of all croppings of orchards; but thought if it was decided on, the squash was the best crop that could be adopted. The best apple he knew was the Baldwin, for all purposes—shipping included—and he suggested a monument to be erected on the spot where the first Baldwin tree grew in Wilmington. The spot was well defined, and he hoped the suggestion would be carried out, as nothing had proved more profitable to Massachusetts than the Baldwin apple. Mr. Sheldon stated that the original tree had been destroyed by lightning.

The CHAIRMAN confessed that he had been lax in his duty as a member of a committee appointed to attend to the matter of this monument; but Mr. SHELDON excused the presiding officer, on the ground that he had always over-worked himself in the cause of agricultural and horticultural progress.

Messrs. BUCKMINSTER, WETHERELL, DAVIS, and LAKE, of Topsfield, severally made some valuable practical remarks. The latter gentleman went in for thorough draining as the primary condition of successful fruit-raising. He commended the Seckel and Winter Nelis and Easter Beurre as being among the best pears we could grow, and gave his preference to the Rebecca grape, the Delaware, Diana, Clinton and Concord.

The questions of hybridizing and pruning were incidentally touched upon. With respect to the former no rule of management was decided on as the best, nor was the system apparently approved, as the fear seemed to exist that the importation to a hardy rough grape of the qualities of a finer one would give it also a proneness to the diseases which infested our finer sorts. As to pruning, the general idea was that beginning in time, and using no implement more formidable than the pocket-knife was the best mode of

proceeding; but that when it was necessary, the best time to prune large limbs was in September.

The subject for next Monday's discussion is, "*Sheep Husbandry.*"

ECHOES.

A good ear cannot distinguish one sound from another, unless there is an interval of one-ninth of a second between the arrival of the two sounds. Sounds must, therefore, succeed each other at an interval of one-ninth of a second, in order to be heard distinctly. Now, the velocity of sound being eleven hundred and twenty feet a second, in one-ninth of a second, the sound would travel one hundred and twenty-four feet.

Repeated echoes happen when two obstacles are placed opposite to one another, as parallel walls, for example, which reflect the sound successively.

At Ademach, in Bohemia, there is an echo which repeats seven syllables three times; at Woodstock, in England, there is one which repeats a sound seventeen times during the day, and twenty times during the night. An echo in the villa Smionetta, near Milan, is said to repeat a sharp sound thirty times audibly. The most celebrated echo among the ancients, was that of the Metelli, at Rome, which, according to tradition, was capable of repeating the first line of Œneid, containing fifteen syllables, eight times distinctly.

Dr. Birch describes an echo at Roseneath, Argyleshire, which, it is said, does not now exist. When eight or ten notes were played upon a trumpet, they were returned by this echo upon a key a third lower than the original notes, and shortly after upon a key still lower. Dr. Page describes an echo in Fairfax county, Virginia, which possesses a similar curious property. This echo gives three distinct reflections, the second echo much the most distinct. Twenty notes played upon a flute, are returned with perfect clearness. But the most singular property of this echo is, that some notes in the scale are not returned in their places, but are supplied with notes which are either thirds, fifths, or octaves.

There is a surprising echo between two barns at Belvidere, Alleghany county, N. Y. The echo repeats eleven times a word of one, two or three syllables; it has been heard to repeat thirteen times. By placing oneself in the centre, between the two barns, there will be a double echo, one in the direction of each barn, and a monosyllable will be repeated twenty-two times.

A striking and beautiful effect of echo is produced in certain localities by the Swiss mountaineers, who contrive to sing their Rans de Vaches in such time that the reflected notes form an agreeable accompaniment to the air itself.—*Prof. Silliman.*

INJUSTICE IN FLOWAGES.—In another column may be found a second article from Judge FRENCH'S forthcoming book "*On Drainage*," to which we wish to call the especial attention of the reader. There is no subject, in our opinion, that so imperatively calls the attention of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, as that of flowages. All the mill acts ought to be repealed, and an entirely new form and spirit of legislation enacted, more in accordance with justice and the common rights which every where exist between man and man. We hope that some enterprising and fearless champion of the "Rights of Man" will be found in our present legislature who will devote himself to this work, and institute such proceedings as will call public attention to the outrageous partialities and inequalities that now exist, and result in the enactment of laws on the subject more in accordance with common sense and common justice, and the spirit of the age.

For the New England Farmer.

"MILCH COWS AND DAIRY FARMING."*

I have just completed an examination of Mr. Flint's book with the above title, and cannot forbear to say a word in its praise.

In the first place, its size and style both commend it. Very few agricultural writers exhibit so much literary taste as is to be seen in this work. The paper and print are also superior. This makes one feel comfortable in reading it, and banishes the suspicion of its being like "Peter Pindar's razor," made only to *sell*. He, however, who gets up a book with mean type and cheap paper, having a view to profit, in my judgment commits a blunder.

Many of the cuts are very good and some are very poor. But the general execution of the work makes ample amends for trifling imperfections in this particular.

It has come at a time, too, when such a work was very much needed. A great deal has been written within a few years, in relation to the subjects of which it treats, and a very large proportion of what has been written, is utterly worthless. To find the valuable part, would be a greater labor than to extract a "kernel of wheat" from two bushels of chaff. In the transactions of hosts of Agricultural Societies in different States, in newspapers, in periodicals, articles upon the subject are everywhere scattered, which have accomplished their purpose, and will never be worth bringing again to the light. Many writers have a particular object in view, and their statements are neither valuable nor trustworthy. Cattle breeders are able to find no defects in the breed which they favor, and no merits in any other. Stock speculators praise those only, which for the moment will yield the largest profit. Men, therefore, who were really desirous to get correct information on this branch of farm economy, were at a loss where to find it.

This work of Mr. Flint supplies the deficiency. It may be regarded not only as comprising the opinions of the author, which years of experience as Secretary of the Board of Agriculture have made valuable, but also as a compendium of well digested and reliable public opinion. By this is meant, the opinion of a very large majority of those, who have given so much attention to the

* MILCH COWS AND DAIRY FARMING. By C. L. Flint, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture.

subject as to be competent to judge, and whose judgment is of value, because it is unprejudiced and honest. The man who has devoted a good deal of study and thought to the subject, will detect nothing new in it, but he will find the results of his own investigations and convictions much better expressed, probably, than he could express them himself.

The chapter on the "Dairy Husbandry of Holland," which is an elegant and finished translation from the German, and Mr. Horsfall's statement in the appendix, give increased value to the work. No farmer whose money does not yield him more than 100 per cent. interest, can invest the amount of its cost half so well, as in the purchase of this little book. UNUS.

For the New England Farmer.

WHAT SHALL WE EAT?

Truly this is a question which deeply concerns every individual, notwithstanding a person may subsist for a time, at least, on a meagre diet to all appearances, as well as on the most sumptuous living. Physiologists and reformers, from time immemorial, have expended much brain and eloquence to prove that one article of food is wholesome, another pernicious, until even at this late day and generation, the question, What shall we eat? is as perplexing and difficult to answer as it would have been to the sons of Noah, the day when the Ark first rested on Mount Ararat. In view of these facts the celebrated Dr. Graham labored with a zeal worthy a reformer, to prove that mankind were not carnivorous, and therefore animal food was the slow poison that brought on our infirmities, and consequently shortened human life. Many were his proselytes, who abstained from animal food, at his suggestion, believing that they might attain to the age of Methuselah, by adhering to his physiology, when, lo! the Doctor died in early manhood, perhaps a victim to his own delusion, not having arrived at the scriptural age of three score years and ten.

Other reformers have advocated different views. Vegetarians have not been wanting, who maintained that a vegetable diet was the proper food for man, or that he was graminiverous, and should subsist on roots and herbs; in fine, that man, like the ox, should eat grass and ruminate. So even at this day we may use the language of the poet:

"Who shall decide when doctors disagree?"

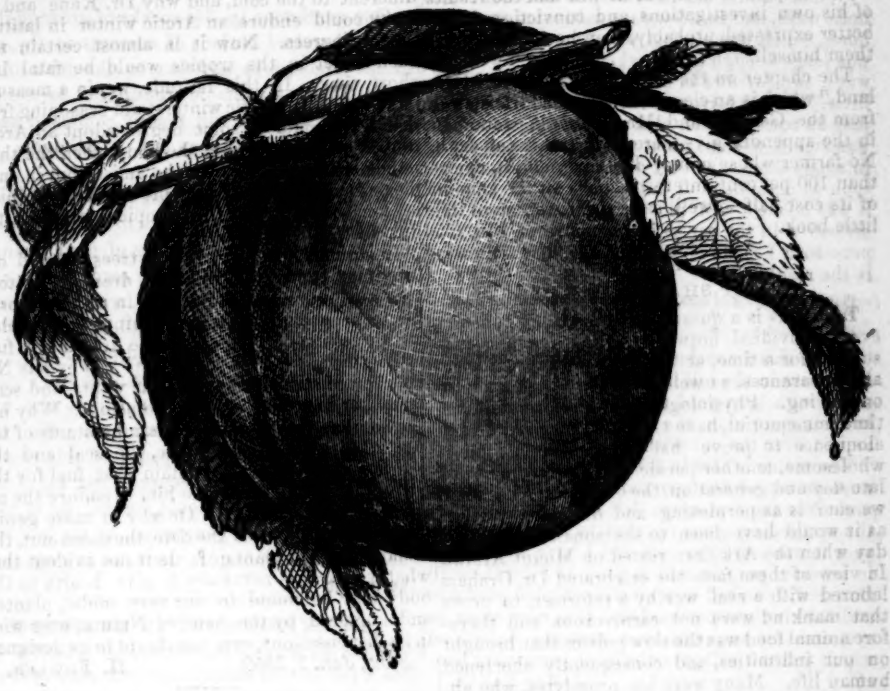
Now it is evident that mankind are so differently constituted, that no rule on dietetics will apply in all cases; what is poison for one, is an antidote for another, and vice versa. The truth is, people of limited means should consult economy, and if upon trial it is found that six dollars in flour will support life as long as ten dollars in meats, and with it good health besides, then, certainly, animal food is not economical. Nevertheless, it may be that the staff of life would not be sufficient nutriment in all exposures and at all seasons of the year. The Esquimaux Indian of Northern Greenland, throughout the long, dark winter, subsists chiefly on walrus beef and seal; Dr. Kane, in the same inhospitable region, found the greasy Esquimaux's diet far preferable to the variety usually carried on shipboard, which goes far to prove the assertion of physiologists, that the fat of animals when taken into the stomach becomes fuel for the body, and shows conclusively, why the Esquimaux is so indifferent to the cold, and why Dr. Kane and his party could endure an Arctic winter in latitude eighty degrees. Now it is almost certain that such a diet in the tropics would be fatal in a short time. In this latitude, we, in a measure, experience the Arctic winters, and reasoning from analogy, should in some degree adopt an Arctic diet. Fat meat to warm the body when the thermometer is at zero, will not be amiss; but in summer, when the south winds blow and the tropical season comes, and with it tropical diseases, the diet should be very different.

In summer we plant shade trees around our dwellings, open the windows, dress in cottons and muslins, and fan ourselves, in order if possible to keep cool; now patronizing the butcher at this season of the year is like dressing in furs in dog-days. Am I wrong then? Why has Nature so abundantly supplied our wants, and scattered her blessings in such profusion? Why has she so generously supplied the inhabitants of the Arctic Circle with the whale, the seal and the walrus, whereby he may obtain that fuel for the body, so essential to enable him to endure the severity of that climate? Or why in more genial climes has she planted the date, the cocoa-nut, the banana and the plantain? Is it not evident that whatever food is necessary to give health to the body may be found in our very midst, planted and nurtured by the hand of Nature, ever wise in its dispensations, ever beneficent in its designs?

Stow, Jan. 1, 1859. H. FOWLER.

REMARKS.—A sensible, practical view of the case. The reader will please remember that we have admitted into these columns several articles commenting with considerable severity upon our habits of eating and drinking—not because we adopted as truths *all* that was said, but because we thought such articles would not fail to attract attention, and prepare the way for investigation, and perhaps, reformation, in some particulars.

FARMERS' CLUBS.—We gladly acknowledge the receipt of valuable suggestions with regard to the best modes *of bringing the subject of agriculture more directly home to the people*, and shall consider it a favor to receive the opinions of our friends in this matter, in and out of the State. There is evidently a new desire awakened in New England to conduct the business of farming with more system and intelligence, and this desire should be met with a corresponding interest on the part of the agricultural press, and by the active men of agricultural associations. The *Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture* has taken an important step in this direction, which they will soon place before the public. The views of others, communicated to us, may aid in this new movement.



THE CRAWFORD EARLY PEACH.

This is one of the most splendid, as well as one of the most excellent, of all early yellow-fleshed peaches, and is scarcely surpassed by any other variety in size and beauty of appearance. We have raised them so that three would weigh a pound. "As a market fruit," Downing says, "it is perhaps the most popular of the day, and it is deserving of the high favor in which it is held by all growers of the peach. It was originated by WILLIAM CRAWFORD, Esq., of Middletown, N. J. The tree is vigorous, very fruitful and hardy." The fruit from which our engraving was taken, was grown by CHARLES D. SWAIN, Esq., of Roxbury, Mass.

The leaves of the tree have globose glands. Fruit very large, oblong, the swollen point at the top prominent, the suture shallow. Skin yellow, with a fine red cheek. Flesh yellow, melting, sweet, rich and very excellent. Ripens about the last of August. Flowers small.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We are under obligations to our correspondents for many articles that we have not yet published, but for most of which we shall find space soon. The circle of correspondence is still widening, and if we had double the space to fill, we should scarcely find any difficulty in doing it. The writing and publishing a good article, is like that charity that blesses twice; it is of more benefit to the *writer* than would be the reading of a dozen articles, and then the article goes forth to benfit thousands of others.

For the New England Farmer.

EXPERIMENTS IN RAISING CORN.

In the spring of 1857, I had but five acres of ground to plant to corn, and, not being very badly hurried with work, I concluded to try an experiment, in order to test the different ways of applying manure. My field was an oblong, forty rods by twenty, and I divided it into five plots, each four rods wide. On the first I put twenty loads of long manure, and plowed under to the depth of eight inches. On the second plot, ten loads of fine barn-yard manure, on top of the ground after plowing, and then thoroughly dragging before marking. Plot third, manured in the hill, with two quarts of very fine stable manure. Plot fourth, manured in the hill with one quart compost, made of two parts muck, two parts hog manure and one part each of lime and ashes. Plot fifth, without any manure. The kind of corn planted was the yellow smut, or red blaze, the kernel of which is large and flat, and ear good size. It was

planted on the twenty-fifth or twenty-seventh of May, dropped dry, and plaster dropped on it before covering, and then plastered again as soon as up.

When I could see the rows, it was cultivated both ways, and in a few days cultivated again and hoed, which was all that was done for it until it was large enough to hill, when it was plowed both ways, two furrows in a row, and hilled up a very little. It was furrowed three feet apart, making just 22 rows on each plot or acre. As soon as it was ripe it was cut up at the hill, and well set up in small shocks, so that the corn might dry as soon as possible, and the latter part of October it was husked, each plot by itself, and accurately measured in the ear as it was put in the bin. The poor corn I made no account of. The following is the result:

Plot 1, 84 bushels of ears.	Plot 4, 95 bushels of ears.
Plot 2, 90 " "	Plot 6, 68 " "
Plot 3, 99 " "	

From this I conclude, that, for present profit, manuring in the hill is the best, as the plot manured with barn-yard manure in the hill gave 15 bushels more than the long manure plowed in, and 31 over the one without manure.

The result is also in favor of spreading the manure on top of the ground instead of plowing under for the first crop; but how this will affect the succeeding crops remains to be seen. This year it was sowed to oats and I have kept them in separate parcels, and as soon as I get them all thrashed, I can tell how much each plot produces and their weight per bushel. It is now sown to rye, and this crop will in a measure determine which method will give the most permanent benefit.

JAMES BAKER.

Oak Hill, Jan., 1859.

REMARKS.—We accept the proposition made in your private note.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This handsome pamphlet of 120 pages presents one feature, such as we have never before witnessed, capable of being imitated in every society of the Commonwealth. The supervisory committee framed a series of questions, embracing the essentials of farm management, and addressed them to intelligent cultivators. In this way they elicited the actual experience of the best cultivators of the county. Several of these papers contain the essence of good farming. There is one gentleman, page 38, who states how he has grown, year after year, crops of Indian corn, amounting to one hundred bushels to the acre, no mistake, and no fictitious measure. This is good doings, better by one-half than most farmers do. We venture the assertion, that the crop usually raised throughout the State does not exceed forty bushels, fair measure. We think there is great need of some uniform rule of harvesting, curing and measuring this crop, so that the crops in different sections can be compared one with another. We hold that corn is not fit to be measured, until it is dry enough to be ground, and that the statute should define the number of pounds to constitute a bushel at this time.

One gentleman (p. 35) speaks of growing three or four hundred bushels of currants to the acre, in his orchard, in addition to the fruit of the trees. This is a valuable crop indeed, for we presume such currants will readily command half a dollar a bushel. They are a palatable and wholesome berry.

We are pleased to see that these Norfolk farmers stir their soil from seven to ten inches deep, and that they are not sparing of their manure, applying from eight to twelve cords to the acre. No man can expect a full crop, who feeds skrimpingly. The liberal donor shall be rewarded accordingly. We think we should prefer Mr. Robinson's instructions about draining and seeding land, to those of old Father Elliot, who lived more than one hundred years ago. We think we trace on many of the pages of this volume, the industry and good sense of our old friend Sewell—and have no doubt he will do as much good in his day and generation, by his labors on the farm, and among farmers, as he ever did in the pulpit.

AN EXPERIMENT IN DRAINING.

When we witness the change of a sterile soil into a fertile one through the influence of draining, it is conclusive evidence of the value of labor so applied. Such has recently come to our notice, and we shall recall it for our readers.

It not unfrequently happens in hilly or gently undulating districts, that intervals and damp, springy soils abound, requiring draining before it can be brought into profitable cultivation. The instance in question, was a field of fair surface, quite free from stone, but receiving from more elevated land a continual supply of clear, cold, soft spring water, which ran over nearly the whole surface. The owner, faithless of reclaiming the lot, was yet desirous of collecting the water to supply a reservoir for cattle. This was mainly accomplished by cutting a drain across the slope of land near the upper side of the field, for about a hundred rods in length, which did so much for draining the surface that other ditches were cut completing the work. The drains were finished with the flat stone usual in such districts, carefully laid and covered with a good coat of straw, before replacing the dirt. Now of the change produced.

A crop never grew upon this lot from the time it was cleared until after it was drained. Water grasses and weeds were the only product; but since draining, it has produced annually over two tons of good hay per acre, without any manure. The appearance of the soil is wholly changed, from a tenacious blue clay, adhering to one's boots like tar—it has become a clear, black, clay loam—just such a soil as always produces remunerative crops to the farmer.—*Country Gentleman.*

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

[Reported by John C. Moore, for the N. E. Farmer.]

The meeting on Monday night was very respectable in point of number, and included many of our most enterprising farmers throughout the State. The subject for discussion was, "*Sheep and Sheep Husbandry.*"

Hon. Richard S. Fay, of Boston, occupied the Chair. He apologized, because of ill health and engrossing avocations, for want of preparation in introducing the subject. *Sheep husbandry* was a most important item in the husbandry of the State. Referring to the system of stock keeping, and the proposition laid down at a former meeting—that no farm could be properly managed unless it kept a stock capable of consuming its produce—he took up the question of what was the best kind of stock to keep, especially with reference to the progressive improvement of the farm. The prominent question is —What shall we do to renovate our worn-out pastures? Cattle had been tried, and the consequence had been failure; for in connection with cattle culture, the true American system was to take all out of the farm and return nothing to it. In the mind of the speaker, sheep husbandry was the best means of renovating the soil. Top dressing was out of the question; for the pastures would have to be brought to a reasonable state of fertility before this could be done with effect. The proneness of cultivated grass lands to go back to a natural state was also a considertion to be thought of, and the means of keeping them in good condition another. Sheep grazing would do this more effectually than any other, as the excrement of sheep, in its nature, and in the manner it was distributed over the soil, restored to pastures what they had lost from feeding, kept down the natural and coarser grasses, and retained the fertility of the lands in a greater measure than by the use of any other description of grazing stock. Mr. Fay said he possessed 200 acres, which, ten years ago, would have starved ten cows to death. It was a matter of too much expense to cultivate it—in fact, it was no more in his estimation than a piece of waste land. It was of no use, only as it was liable to call for a tax. On 100 acres he put 150 sheep, four years ago, and now, on the same pasture, there are fifteen to twenty cattle grazed six months in every year. This was through pasturing with sheep. The land was rocky, and could not be brought into cultivation through any other means.

As to winter-keep of sheep, it was an advantage to the farmer, although it was thought to be different. They required less care, did not demand housing so much as other stock—they requiring only a yard, hay-rack, and a shed during storms; they were less liable to disease than any other stock; in fact, all they demanded was the simple attention of feeding, and they improve in condition in the same ratio as cattle feeding for the shambles. Sheep consume two pounds of hay, per day, or its equivalent. Eight pounds of roots would be an equivalent. As compared with cattle, sheep produce much more fertilizing manure than any other kind of stock. Spengel, a German chemist, said that 1000 sheep would produce as much manure in twenty-four hours as would put an acre of land in the best condition. This looked rather strange to Mr. Fay when he first saw it, and he determined to look into it. This would give fifteen well-manured acres out of as many tons of hay—a rather startling statement. Professor Johnston, in an article on the comparative value of manures, ratified it by stating that sheep droppings were as 12 to 7 in fertilizing qualities, compared with the excrements of cows—nearly one-half more. In conjunction with other stocks, and not at all to displace them, all farmers ought to keep sheep. Their droppings are as good as guano, and few farms were independent of the use of such manures—for few were without spots where it could be top-dressed by the use of sheep, when any other means would not prove half so effectual. Sheep, also, had always a ready market, which was another advantage they had over hay, grain or other produce.

As to the objection against sheep on account of dogs—their number in this State had dwindled from 550,000 to 120,000! It was a matter of shame to think that dogs were so allowed to mar such a useful branch of rural economy. In old times, a premium was offered for the heads of wolves, for the reason that they destroyed the domestic cattle and sheep; and now when dogs were so much worse, and the fact was made plain to the Legislature, it was as good as laughed at—for the law passed last session was of no consequence. Had it passed as originally presented, the bill would have added to the value of the sheep stock, in a few years, $1,000,000. Everybody was protected in their rights but the farmer. If a man established a nuisance alongside his neighbor's property, he was liable to punishment; but a man who was not worth a cent, but who owned an untaxed dog, was suffered to keep his sheep-killing nuisance with impunity. The option of cities and towns to adopt the existing laws was fatal to any idea of its ever being useful. Mr. Fay hoped that means would soon be taken to cure this evil.

As to wool, New England manufactured 40,000,000 of pounds, when Massachusetts, with lands adapted to the support of half a million of

sheep, only produced the paltry quantity of 400,000 pounds. In England there were about 44,000,000 sheep; while in the United States, where cheap land and other facilities were superior, we had only 15,000,000. The fact appealed to our patriotism. Gentlemen here wore broadcloth coats and pants, and not a thread of them were grown within three thousand miles of where they were. Mr. Fay concluded by appealing to the gentlemen of the Legislature to furnish farmers such protection as would protect their interests, and, as he had endeavored to show, those of the common country.

Mr. MARSH, of Danvers, spoke experimentally of the improvement made by sheep-grazing on lands that were not otherwise capable of being well treated, and recommended that farmers should give at least some attention to sheep-keeping, if the dogs would let them. In fifteen months he had sixty head nearly destroyed by dogs. He concurred in what had been said by the president on this subject, and also regarded the superiority of sheep-droppings over all other kinds of manure—even although they were fed on the coarsest of hay. In answer to a question put, Mr. Marsh said that in winter, sheep required more water, according to their bulk, than neat stock. A disease had appeared among his flock which had induced him to change them entirely, and it had not since made its appearance, and this step he would recommend. He said that emulation was rapidly inducing farmers in his neighborhood to procure sheep; and if facilities were favorable, their culture would be much more general.

Mr. JOHN D. G. WILLIAMS, of Bristol county, said that he had experience of the value of sheep in improving land; and held them to be a profitable article to keep. From 12 sheep he had in value in lambs, wool and premiums $116,80. He had received for a cross of the South Down $6 a head for three months' lambs, which he held to be a fair price. Dogs were a great nuisance, and it was time that the Legislature should put about as much value on sheep as they did on dogs. One of his neighbors had lost his whole flock, thirteen, in one night, and instances were numerous of similar depredation. This evil must be cured.

The PRESIDENT here read a humorous account of what the author called the Disease of Dogs, as it afflicted sheep—which recommended as a cure good wholesome laws, strictly and properly executed.

Mr. JOHN W. PROCTOR, of Danvers, spoke next. His observations were confined to sheep as improvers of wild pasture land, and described an experiment by Mr. Marsh, who had previously spoken, on land which, ten years ago, would not support one cow, whereas, five years after being fed by sheep, it could support five cows, and received the best premium the Essex county could give. Several other gentlemen had tried the same description of experiment, and all had been similarly successful.

Mr. SANFORD HOWARD, of the *Cultivator*, agreed in the opinion that sheep formed a most important feature of our agricultural prosperity. As to dogs, they were kept as numerously in Europe, in sheep countries, as they were here; but probably the greater safety of the "wooly people" was owing to farmers keeping dogs whose nature was to protect, not to destroy sheep. Mr. Howard coincided with the several speakers with regard to the fertilizing qualities of sheep, and their value as stock, on poor lands. He then briefly alluded to the question of what kinds of sheep should be kept in the different sections of the country. In the neighborhood of cities, where mutton was high priced, the kind easiest fed would of course be chosen; where the object was to improve hilly pasture, the production of wool would be an important consideration. The character of the soil, and circumstances, would regulate choice; but, if he should give an opinion in the matter of sheep for mountainous district, he should speak in favor of the black-faced mountain sheep of Holland and Wales.

Mr. Howard continued to make some valuable practical observations on stall-feeding sheep—urging, however, the importance of proper feeding, even although they were capable of being sustained on the coarsest kinds of food. He also spoke of the property sheep had of improving the grasses of meadows on which they were fed in course of a rotation system of husbandry.

Mr. WETHERELL made some very pointed remarks on the great evils arising to sheep culture from dogs, and urged a determined effort to procure a law that would operate as a sufficient protection. Mr. W. referred to an instance within his knowledge, wherein a few sheep had caused a great improvement on a farm.

Mr. MARSH also joined in the demand for a more stringent law against dogs; for it was notorious, that, when a dog once tasted the blood of a sheep, there was no limit to the extent of his depredations. It was of little use to hunt after these depredators; the better way would be to find means to prevent their existence, which a heavy tax would be most likely to do, were it made imperative on all dog-keepers.

The PRESIDENT spoke of the fertilizing properties of sheep manure in the matter of grasses, which showed a large per centage over other manures. He also said that the profit of sheep, per annum, as represented to him by a competent authority, was equivalent to the annual value

of the flock, independently of the other advantages which had been specified.

Mr. WILLIAMS gave evidence much to the same effect; approved of raising sheep for lambs; held a cross of the native and South Down to be the best for this region; and said that the average price of lambs in Bristol county, in June, was about $4. In the richer valley lands the price of lambs might reach $5 per head.

The subject for next Monday evening's discussion is, "*Fruit, and How to Raise it,*" when Hon. SIMON BROWN, of Concord, will preside.

[NOTE.—By an unfortunate transposition of the reporter, the list of PEARS recommended by Col. WILDER at the meeting when the subject of "*Fruit and Fruit Trees*" was discussed, was not properly printed in last week's *N. E. Farmer*. The following is a correction:

Best six pears on their own roots—Bartlett, Urbaniste, Vicar of Winkfield, Buffum, Beurre d'Anjou and Lawrence.

For the best twelve, add—Rostiezer, Merriam, Doyenne Boussock, Belle Lucrative, Flemish Beauty and Onondago.

Best six on quince roots—Louise bonne de Jersey, Urbaniste, Duchess d'Angouleme, Vicar of Winkfield, Beurre d'Anjou and Glout Morceau.]

For the New England Farmer.

CHESHIRE COUNTY MASS MEETING.

MR. EDITOR:—I attended another of the Cheshire Co. Agricultural Meetings on Friday, the 4th. The meeting was appointed at one o'clock. Col. READ, of Swanzey, joined me at Marlboro', where he had been waiting for the train three hours. The colonel is a man of energy, and has done his duty in this matter faithfully. At Keene we were joined by SAMUEL WOODWARD, Esq, Editor of the *Sentinel*. We reached the hotel of mine host of the Walpole House, a little after 4 o'clock, where we found about fifteen or twenty of the citizens awaiting our advent. The people assembled in the afternoon, and organized for the evening by the choice of I. HOWLAND, Esq., as President, and Mr. STEARNS, Secretary, and adjourned to six o'clock. Just before the meeting, Mr. T. BREED, editor of the *New Hampshire Journal of Agriculture*, came in. He is an energetic, intelligent man, full of life and animation, and added another good fellow to our party. Soon after six the President opened the meeting by appropriate remarks, and then Col. Read made one of his straight-forward, business-like speeches. Then your humble servant occupied the floor for about an hour, and was followed by Mr. Breed. He spoke with special reference to the importance and advantage of sustaining an agricultural paper in New Hampshire, adapted to the wants and circumstances of their State. They were more engaged in stock and sheep raising than were the people in some other States, and they wanted to discuss these subjects, and other matters of local importance, which they could not expect to find in papers of other States. They should have a paper which was in some cort common property, upon whose pages they could meet. He did not wish them to drop the *New England Farmer*, or any other paper, but to take the *Journal of Agriculture* in addition. At the close it was announced that in two weeks there would be a similar meet. Thursday, the 17th inst., and on the Friday, at Marlow, at which meetings BROWN, editor of the *New England Farmer*, expected to be present and address the meetir

Yours truly, J. REYNOLDS.

Concord, Feb. 7.

REMARKS.—Our correspondent sent us a full and interesting account of this meeting, but it came ofter our paper was nearly made up, so that we have been obliged to sadly abridge it.

For the New England Farmer.

EXPERIMENTS IN FATTENING SWINE.

MR. EDITOR:—I send you herein the result of a few experiments in pork-raising in our village. It is not pretended that there is anything very unusual in the cases mentioned. If it should appear, however, that frequent feeding and *full*-feeding of spring pigs is the surest and readiest way to turn a penny in raising pork, I shall not be disappointed. Nothing, I apprehend, is more common or more unprofitable than to buy shoats in the fall, weighing in the neighborhood of one hundred pounds, and in a year to turn out three hundred and fifty pound hogs, and not much more.

Last June, Mr. DANIEL NORTON, Jr., of this town, purchased two spring pigs for $4 each, said to be of the Chester county breed. They were taken from the sow about the last of June, being then two months old. They were slaughtered December 2nd, when one of them weighed 320, the other 310 pounds. These pigs had the skim milk of one cow about three months, and of two the remainder of the time. But they had as much Indian meal as they would eat. They were never fed less than three times a day, often four and sometimes five. Pigs recently from the mother, may safely and profitably be fed frequently. The digestive powers are most active in the *young* animal, as matter of theory even; in practice it is found emphatically so; and if the animal is fed always, the growth is never stunted and the animal does about all it was made to do, in a short time. These pigs were seven months and four days old when butchered, and weighed, as above stated, 630 pounds.

Mr. Abel Goodhue bought a pig on the 14th of June last, then weighing 30 pounds. He was killed Dec. 12th, and dressed off 250 pounds. It was a cross of the Suffolk and Essex breed. This pig had the skim milk of one cow only, and twelve and one-half bushels of meal. This was his entire keeping, with the exception of from two to three bushels of potatoes, in addition to slop from the house. Here was a gain of just about *one and a quarter pounds a day:* another proof of the advantage of the fast-feeding of young animals—and none probably doubt that the meat is sweeter through all its stages.

I add the following, not as an example of rapid growth, for it goes to show, like the cases before cited, that the gain is less rapid as well as more expensive, as the animal advances in age; but on account of the accuracy with which the experiment was conducted. It is really to be wished that all engaged in the fattening of

swine or neat cattle, would keep accurate accounts for the benefit of others.

Mr. Samuel Proctor purchased from a drover a shoat, in April last, I think on the 3d, then weighing 120 pounds. The cost was $10,20: He was butchered Dec. 29th, and weighed 353 pounds; this was eight months and twenty-six days from the time when his live weight was 120 pounds, as before stated. Mr. P. fed out 24 bushels of Indian meal and one-half bushel of rye meal, which was his entire living, with the exception of slops from the house, (no milk at all,) and a few potatoes, not exceeding three bushels in all. The entire cost of the animal and his keeping, (not reckoning the potatoes,) and allowing for the butchering, was $34,73, and is made up as follows, viz:

Cost of the shoat, April 3	$10,20
One bushel meal bought same day	,84
One bushel meal	,90
April 28, one bushel meal	,90
May 6, do. do.	,86
May 15, do. do.	,86
May 24, do. do.	,88
June 2, do. do.	,88
June 9, do. do.	,90
June 17, do. do.	,86
June 25, 6 bushels, at 90c	5,40
Aug. 4, one bushel	1,06
Aug. 11, one-half bush. rye meal, given in small quantities, mixed with Indian	,54
Aug. 14, one bushel Indian meal	1,10
Aug. 25, do. do.	1,06
Sept 17, do. do.	1,06
Sept. 30, do. do.	1,06
Oct. 11, do. do.	1,06
Oct. 23, do. do.	1,06
Nov. 6, do. do.	1,00
Nov. 8, do. do.	1,00
Add for butchering	1,25
Total	$34,73

The meal was purchased as often as wanted, and the date of the purchase of each bushel shows pretty nearly the amount in the different stages of the animal's growth.

Mr. P., as the result of his carefully conducted experiment, knows that his pork has cost him just about ten cents per pound, not reckoning anything for time spent in feeding—or rather, perhaps, offsetting this against the manure, which should certainly be done.

Essex, Dec. 21, 1859. DAVID CHOATE.

REMARKS.—We are greatly obliged to Mr. Choate for the above; such precise statements are always valuable.

For the New England Farmer

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION IN MANURE.

Will you or some of your readers of the *Farmer* inform me on a few things? The last of October my large and nearly new barn and sheds, with all their contents, were consumed by fire. We have and do now think it was the work of an incendiary. There was a cellar to said barn; fifteen feet on the west side was partitioned off by a stone wall, which made a pit for manure, fifteen by forty feet, and every year till the last I kept hogs and let them run under my stable in the cellar. I have used common brakes for bedding, (as they grow among us plentifully;) we put into the pit all the leaves, old shoes, boots, &c., that we have, and cover them up in the manure. After the fire we found the manure all on fire and put it out, as we supposed; the second day we found it on fire again; the third day it was still burning. I went with my hired man and dug down some two feet and found at the bottom a large bed of fire. Now the question is, is it probable or is it possible, that the barn took fire from spontaneous combustion? If so, my advice is for every one to see that their manure is shoveled over often, or otherwise keep hogs in the cellar, although in my opinion they will not do quite as well as when kept out in a good dry place.

One more question:—Can any man take one or any number of swallows, and put them in the mud, a hollow tree or log, or in a sand-bank, or in any other condition whatever, and keep them alive through the winter? My opinion is that it can't be done without food. G. V.

REMARKS.—We do not think the barn took fire by spontaneous combustion, under the circumstances mentioned.

For the New England Farmer.

THE WEATHER OF 1858.

FROM MY WEATHER JOURNAL.

The most noticeable feature of the weather of 1858, was the remarkable mildness of the winter season. During a large portion of *January*, at least two-thirds of the month, the ground was entirely bare in this part of the Connecticut valley, and for *seventeen* days in succession no snow fell. Towards the close of the month of January, the frost left the ground, the roads generally became settled, and the ponds were free from ice. Farmers might have plowed, and to my knowledge, *did plow*, without difficulty from frost, there being four days, commencing with the 25th, in which the temperature ranged from four to eighteen degrees above the freezing point. Violets in blossom in the gardens, fully exposed to the weather, were not uncommon; and other plants were reported in flower by the newspapers, including the strawberry; but the violets I saw myself in full, bright bloom.

The first ten days of *February* were as mild as any consecutive ten in January, the temperature sometimes rising to 50° in the shade, in the open air; and the remainder of the month, though considerably colder, deserves to rank only as quite mild winter weather.

The first two weeks of *March* were more winter-like than the same length of time in either of the preceding winter months, producing a temperature of 12° below zero—6° lower than any in the winter months—and about a week or ten days of poor sleighing. This was nearly all the sleighing of the season, and the greatest depth of snow on the ground at one time was not more than five inches. In short, the weather of March was about as ordinarily for this month, and before the close of the month the frost generally left the ground. During the last days of the month, farmers began to plow, and only now and then a mud-hole could be found in the roads. No snow fell here after the 20th of the month, and at the end of the month none could be seen, not even on the most elevated points of Hampden and Hampshire counties.

April continued mild, even more than usually warm, and marked by no very severe changes. At the close of the month the buds on the trees were very forward in their incipient stages of development; but *May* was cold and advanced the season but little from where April left it. Apple trees were not in full bloom till the 25th, and vegetation in general was proportionally backward. Cloudy weather was the predominant feature of the month.

June strove hard to make amends for the failings of May, and at its close had brought vegetation up to rather more than its usual stage of development at this season. The month was rather too dry, but otherwise exceedingly fine for the farmer, though towards its close the heat was extreme. Thermometer in this vicinity ranged from 90° to near 100°, in the shade. At the West, and paticularly along the valley of the Mississippi, the month will be long remembered on account of its disastrous freshets.

July was mild in respect to heat, and although there was a scanty supply of rain, growing crops suffered but little in lack of it.

August was cool, with a large proportion of northeast wind, equal to one day in three throughout the month.

September and *October* were golden months; and, besides bringing in an abundant harvest, brought a remarkably large share of sunshine and clear weather. Indeed, I think that it is a rare occurrence to have two as fine months in succession, as were September and October of 1858.

November was cold, cloudy, and gloomy, with much wind; and squalls, snow flurries and severe frosts were noticeable and characteristic features of the month.

December was a moderately cold winter month, but in connection with the other two winter months of this year, January and February, does not alter the general character of the winter. An absence of snow was also noticeable in this month, only about four inches falling in all. The greatest fall at one time was between two and three inches; consequently there was comparatively no sleighing during the month.

Jan. 4, 1859. J. A. ALLEN.

REMARKS.—The above is a literal extract from the "*Journal of a Farmer's Boy*," who has always worked on the farm, and enjoyed no special advantages whatever. It is succinct and expressive, and is pretty good evidence that he will soon become one of our best agricultural writers.

For the New England Farmer.

PRESERVATION OF MANURES.

When I was a boy, my father and several of his neighbors who were regarded as good farmers, used to keep the droppings of their cattle as thrown out of the barn windows, where the rain fell upon them from the eaves, and worked and soaked them so completely as to remove nearly all the stink. But a different practice has grown up on these farms within the last twenty years; and nearly all of these owners let these droppings fall into cellars, where they are intermingled with muck gathered from meadows and swamps, and worked over by swine. In this way the quantity of manure is increased three-fold, and although it smells a little when handled, this smell soon ceases to be oppressive, because it is believed to be a valuable ingredient of the manure. I think it is called in my children's schoolbooks, ammonia; but whatever it may be, I think the manure none the worse for it. Whoever by the farm would thrive, must not be afraid of soiling his hands or his trousers. I should just as soon think of meeting a sweet-scented currier who worked daily in his shop, as a clean farmer. No man should be above his business, and that business which emits the strongest stink is likely to produce the cleanest chink of dollars in the end. AN OLD SCHOOL FARMER.

January 22, 1859.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

In accordance with a suggestion in the *Farmer* of Dec. 11th, a few friends of agriculture met and organized a farmers' club in Calais. The constitution published in your paper was adopted with slight amendments.

The organization being a new one in this section, a question arose as to the duties of the standing committee. Will you inform us, through the *Farmer*, whether the secretary should report the substance of the discussion, or whether that duty belongs to the standing committees, and oblige a subscriber. A. M. F.

Calais, Me., Jan., 1859.

REMARKS.—The most difficult post of duty in the *Farmers' Club* is that of Secretary, as he ought to be a pretty good reporter. The discussions and essays should be reported and entered in a substantial record book, and become a part of the annals of the town.

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MAKING BUTTER IN WINTER.

Having noticed an article by a subscriber under date Jan. 11, 1859, in regard to making winter butter, I would say in reply, that the reason why butter does not come quick in winter, is that the milk is set in a cold place where it attains to nearly or quite a freezing point. To remedy this, the only way that I know of is to take the cream when it is found it will not come, and scald it, and set it away till cool, when it will be found that the cream part of it will rise, which skim off and churn in the usual way, and you will find no difficulty in fetching your butter.

Middlebury, Vt., Jan., 1859. W. D. H.

REMARKS.—If milk can be set where the temperature is 55° to 60° the cream will rise readily, and if kept in that temperature, may be churned into butter in less than fifteen minutes.

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AYRSHIRE STOCK.

I listened attentively to the recent discussion at the State House, of the question, "*What breed of animals is best adapted to general farming purposes in New England?*" And although I was strongly inclined to the belief that the advo-

cates of the Ayrshire had the strongest side of the argument, I am clearly of the opinion that it was not expedient to pass any vote to this effect, as was proposed. I was therefore gratified when this proposition was laid upon the table. I think that the best hopes of stock are to be found in the association of first class, pure-blooded Ayrshire males, with the best Yankee females. The primary object of keeping stock being for the milk they give, I think the prospect for quantity and quality is from Yankee cows. I use this term as expressing my views more clearly than any other. I was somewhat astonished that so little was said in favor of the milking qualities of the Devons. I had supposed that the venerable farmer of Framingham had sounded his trumpet so often and so loud, that the reverberation of the sound thereof would not cease while he lived. So true is it, that "the fashion of this world passeth away, and the memory thereof shall be no more forever." ESSEX.

Jan. 25, 1859.

REMARKS.—The above was not received until several days after its date, or it would have been given in our last.

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HAMPDEN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

On looking at the constitution of this society, (p. 113,) it appears that five of the officers constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, to wit: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and a Director, all of whom can be found in the city of Springfield—so that although it is a county society, having officers in every town, it can be governed and controlled by a single town. This strikes me as a singular and questionable provision. It becomes the more worthy of notice, as there seems to be a disposition to make this society the controlling centre of a State Society. I admire the energy and efficiency of a concentrated government; but do not believe the yeomanry of Massachusetts are ready to go for it, to this extent, be it never so good. My views are republican, and I do not like aristocracy in any form—and least of all, in the government of farmers. *.

Feb. 1, 1859.

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WHAT AILS MY COW?

Nov. 12, 1857, she dropped a seven months' calf; her milk came, and she did as well as ever. When seven months in calf again, she did not appear well for several days, and I thought she would do as she did the year previous, but she did not—she got better, and was hearty and well to all appearance. It is now some days past the time for her to calve, and there is nothing that any way indicates it. She discharges large quantities of matter but still appears in good health. What can be done for her?

CONSTANT READER.

West Roxbury, Jan., 1859.

REMARKS.—We have not the skill to recommend anything but a warm and convenient stable, plenty of nourishing food and kind treatment, all of which she probably has now. Perhaps some of our friends can.

A CORDIAL INVITATION.

If you should make New Jersey in the way of some of your agricultural tours, I should be most happy to receive a visit. I think I can show you some good farms as well as farmers (to say nothing about the bad.) I. W. BLACK.

Sykesville, N. J., Jan., 1859.

REMARKS.—It certainly would give us pleasure and profit to make some rural rambles with you through a portion of your State, and we shall bear you kind invitation in remembrance.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

LADIES' WEARING APPAREL.

Flannel is the proper clothing for the skin, preserving the natural heat of the body from being a non-conductor, in winter, and protecting the skin from the danger of a chill after perspiration in summer. However fine and thin the material for this under-garment may be in summer, still it should be woollen—in colder weather to be exchanged for one of a thicker and warmer quality. Beyond this, there should also be a sufficiency of upper garments proportioned to the season; it is not desirable that, even in winter, they should be heavy, but always warm. There is still existing a pernicious practice of wearing thin-soled boots and shoes. If intended for walking out, all boots should have soles of tolerable thickness; in damp weather, the soles should be very thick, or overshoes of some description should be worn with them. The foundation of many a consumption has been laid by a young lady walking or standing in the damp, with her feet ill-protected by mere gauze-like stockings and thin summer boots or shoes. Even in the house, this important part of a lady's dress appointments is by no means, as a general fact, sufficiently attended to. In cold weather, thin-soled slippers are not at all a sufficient protection for the feet in walking on uncarpeted passages; and the "unaccountable" colds that so often attack ladies in winter are often attributable to this cause. The covering for the head should be light, cool, and open, to admit the air. Close night-caps are an evil, and have long been discarded by persons of sense; but if ladies are disposed to wear them to keep the hair tidy, they should be loose and transparent.—*Springfield Republican.*

TO CLEAN GLOVES.—Lay them on a clean board, and first rub the surface gently with a clean sponge and some camphene, or a mixture of camphene and alcohol. Now dip each glove into a cup containing the camphene, lift it out, squeeze it in the hand, and again rub it gently with the sponge, to take out all the wrinkles. After this gather up the cuff in the hand, and blow into it to puff out the fingers, when it may be hung up with a thread to dry. This operation should not be conducted near a fire, owing to the inflammable nature of the camphene vapor. The receipts given in all the books we have consulted for cleaning gloves are barbarous. *Scientific American.*